
HOUSE BILL 2057

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Ryu, Leavitt, Simmons, Reed, Ormsby, Donaghy, Doglio, Riccelli, Reeves, Paul, Shavers, and Davis

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1 AN ACT Relating to creating a pilot project to assist
2 incarcerated veterans' transition to civilian life; adding a new
3 section to chapter 73.08 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 73.08
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
8 specific purpose, the department of veterans affairs shall initiate
9 the reintegration support for incarcerated veterans pilot project.
10 The purpose of the project is to assist incarcerated veterans with
11 reintegration into civilian life through education and employment,
12 decreasing homelessness following release from incarceration.

13 (2) Edmonds Community College must be the first site of the pilot
14 project. Subject to available appropriations, a second pilot project
15 site must be located east of the Cascades and selected through a
16 request for proposal process.

17 (3) The pilot project must support veterans through:

18 (a) Appointment of a reentry navigator.

19 (i) The reentry navigator shall coordinate with the department of
20 corrections at least annually to identify all incarcerated veterans
21 with release dates within 24 months.

1 (ii) The reentry navigator shall contact each incarcerated
2 veteran at least 12 months prior to the veteran's release date and
3 provide the veteran with information on educational opportunities,
4 services, and resources available to the veteran following release
5 from incarceration.

6 (iii) For each incarcerated veteran with a release date within
7 three months who requests to participate in the pilot project, the
8 reentry navigator shall develop a reentry plan. The reentry plan must
9 include an assessment of anticipated living expenses; educational
10 opportunities to train for employment; eligibility for programs such
11 as basic food employment and training, educational benefits through
12 the federal department of veterans affairs, or the incarcerated
13 veterans transition program; and contact information for veterans
14 services, social security, and the department of social and health
15 services in the veteran's county of residence following release.

16 (b) Provision of a housing subsidy.

17 (i) The reentry navigator shall coordinate with the department of
18 veterans affairs to develop criteria to determine eligibility for
19 housing assistance.

20 (ii) Each eligible veteran must receive a housing subsidy not to
21 exceed \$200 per month for up to a 12-month period after release from
22 incarceration.

23 (iii) Priority shall be given to veterans who enroll in an
24 educational institution within three months of release from
25 incarceration.

26 (c) Provision of a reentry subsidy.

27 (i) Each veteran shall receive a reentry subsidy not to exceed
28 \$2,000 during the 12-month period after release from incarceration.

29 (ii) The reentry navigator shall coordinate with the department
30 of veterans affairs to identify appropriate expenses, including
31 clothing, car insurance, cellular phone, home furnishings, or food.

32 (iii) The department of veterans affairs shall develop a system
33 to timely pay an eligible expense.

34 (4) The pilot project may provide additional support to veterans
35 through:

36 (a) Identification of housing opportunities in the veteran's
37 county of residence following release from incarceration;

38 (b) Identification of training that may assist a veteran in
39 effectively transitioning to the community following release from
40 incarceration; or

1 (c) Provision of support and mentoring, life skills training, and
2 assistance with access to local veterans' services.

3 (5) The department of veterans affairs shall coordinate this
4 pilot project with the services offered to veterans by the department
5 of social and health services, local mental health organizations,
6 veteran-focused nonprofit organizations, and the federal department
7 of veterans affairs to minimize duplication and assist those veterans
8 most in need of support to avoid homelessness.

9 (6) The department of veterans affairs shall report to the
10 legislature by November 1, 2025, and every year thereafter until the
11 expiration of the pilot project, on the number of veterans assisted
12 by the project, the number of veterans eligible for the project but
13 unable to participate, and the number of housing subsidies and
14 reentry subsidies provided.

15 (7) For the purposes of this section, "veteran" has the same
16 meaning as in RCW 73.08.005 regardless of discharge status.

17 (8) This section expires June 30, 2030.

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