SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2065

State of Washington 68th Legislature 2024 Regular Session

By House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry (originally sponsored by Representatives Stearns, Hackney, Ramel, Simmons, Reed, Ormsby, Street, Gregerson, Doglio, Lekanoff, Fosse, Santos, Reeves, and Pollet)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/24.

AN ACT Relating to recalculating sentencing ranges for currently incarcerated individuals whose offender score was increased by juvenile convictions no longer scorable under current law and allowing them to apply for resentencing without scoring those juvenile convictions; adding a new section to chapter 9.94A RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature finds that, with the support of eight Washington tribal governments and indigenous organizations along with a broad array of other advocates, the legislature passed Engrossed House Bill No. 1324 in 2023 to end the practice of assigning "juvenile points" to lengthen state prison sentences. The legislature finds that incarcerated indigenous people are the most disproportionately impacted by prior juvenile felony adjudications, followed closely by black people, Pacific Islanders, and Hispanic people.

The legislature further finds that the grave disproportionality within the juvenile legal system has the downstream effect of impacting sentencing ranges in adult court. The legislature recognizes that because of the expansive body of scientific research on brain development, which shows that adolescent's perception,

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- 1 judgment, and decision making differs significantly from that of
- 2 adults, and based on the need to redress the harms of the past, it is
- 3 sound public policy to make the changes enacted in Engrossed House
- 4 Bill No. 1324 retroactive.

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- 5 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 9.94A 6 RCW to read as follows:
 - (1) Any person sentenced for an offense committed prior to July 23, 2023, whose offender score was increased due to any juvenile adjudications that are not scorable under RCW 9.94A.525 as enacted at the time the petition is filed shall be entitled to a resentencing hearing upon the offender's motion for relief from sentence to the original sentencing court if:
 - (a) The person is currently incarcerated in total confinement with a release date on the sentence of January 1, 2025, or later; and
 - (b) Until January 1, 2027, the person:
 - (i) Has a release date on the sentence within three years, or the person would be eligible for release on the sentence within three years if they were resentenced to a standard range sentence based on an offender score which does not include juvenile adjudications that are not scorable under RCW 9.94A.525 as enacted at the time the petition is filed; or
 - (ii) Has served over 15 years of their sentence; or
 - (ii) Has served at least 50 percent of their sentence.
 - (2) The sentencing court shall grant the motion if it finds that the person is currently incarcerated in total confinement, has a release date of January 1, 2025, or later, and the previous offender score was increased due to any juvenile adjudications that are not scorable under RCW 9.94A.525 as enacted at the time the petition was filed. The court shall immediately set an expedited date for resentencing. At the resentencing hearing, there is a rebuttable presumption that the petitioner is entitled to be resentenced by the court.
 - (a) The court may deny a motion for resentencing only if:
- 34 (i) The petitioner has either a significant disciplinary record 35 or an insignificant record of rehabilitation while incarcerated;
- 36 (ii) The petitioner has engaged in pervasive and persistent 37 antisocial behavior while incarcerated;

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- 1 (iii) The court determines by a preponderance of the evidence 2 that it is more likely than not that the person will commit new 3 criminal law violations if resentenced; or
 - (iv) The court determines that resentencing would cause an extraordinary negative impact on the victim or the victim's surviving family of the crime for which the petitioner is presently incarcerated.
 - (b) If the court grants a petitioner's motion for resentencing, the court shall sentence the offender as if any juvenile adjudications that are not scorable under RCW 9.94A.525 as enacted at the time the petition was filed were not part of the offender score at the time the original sentence was imposed. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the soonest allowable release date from total confinement for an individual resentenced under this section may be no sooner than six months after the date of the individual's resentencing hearing.
 - (3) When an individual who has been resentenced under this section is within six months of their expected release date from total confinement, the department of corrections must prepare and make available an individualized reentry plan under chapter 72.09 RCW and the resources necessary for the individual to complete it.
 - (4) If an individual resentenced under this section has at any time been convicted of a sex offense or a domestic violence offense committed against an intimate partner, the department of corrections must provide victim advocate support to the victims of the foregoing offenses, which must commence once a resentencing hearing is scheduled. The victim services must include:
 - (a) Legal advocacy to understand the resentencing process and how to exercise their rights;
 - (b) Safety planning;

- 31 (c) Options to participate in a restorative justice program with 32 the perpetrator; and
 - (d) Case management to address needs that may arise as a result of resentencing.
 - (5) The department of corrections must establish a flexible fund to support victims of gender-based violence committed by petitioners under this act. Uses of the fund may include, but are not limited to:
- 38 (a) Relocation assistance related to a change in safety planning associated with resentencing;
 - (b) Traveling to and from court for resentencing hearings; and

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- 1 (c) Out-of-pocket expenses for psychotherapy associated with the committed offense.
 - (6) Beginning January 1, 2027, this section applies to all individuals meeting the requirements of subsection (2) of this section.
 - (7) Any person sentenced on or after July 1, 2024, for an offense committed prior to July 23, 2023, shall have their offender score calculated based on RCW 9.94A.525 as enacted as of July 1, 2024.
- 9 (8) This section applies retroactively to persons incarcerated on 10 the effective date of this section, regardless of the date of the 11 offense or conviction.
- 12 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect July 1, 2024.

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