SENATE BILL REPORT
SB 6080

As of January 21, 2026

Title: An act relating to contracts between the United States and county and municipal jails for committing or confining individuals in federal custody.

Brief Description: Concerning contracts between the United States and county and municipal jails for committing or confining individuals in federal custody.

Sponsors: Senators Cleveland, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Nobles, Saldaña and Wilson, C..

Brief History:
Committee Activity: Human Services: 1/21/26.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Provides discretion to a person in charge of a jail to receive or keep an individual that is confined or committed a person by authority of the United States.
- Requires a contract between a jail and the United States prior to a jail accepting any person in federal custody, unless there has been a valid judicial warrant issued for that person.
- Prohibits a county or municipality from entering into a contract for the use of their jail with the United States if the person has been transported across any state line.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Staff: Will Trondsen (786-7552)

Background: County, City, and Town Jails. In Washington State, counties, cities, and towns may acquire, build, operate and maintain holding, detention, special detention, and correctional facilities at any place within the territorial limits of the county, city, or town.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The following terms are defined:

- holding facility is a facility primarily designed, staffed, and used for the temporary housing of adult persons charged with a criminal offense prior to trial or sentencing and for the temporary housing of such persons during or after trial, or sentencing, but does not exceed 30 days;
- detention facility is a facility primarily designed, staffed, and used for the temporary housing of adult persons charged with a criminal offense prior to trial or sentencing and for the temporary housing of such persons during or after trial, or sentencing, but shall not exceed 90 days;
- special detention facility is a minimum security facility primarily designed, staffed, and used for the housing of special populations of sentenced persons who do not require the level of security normally provided in detention and correctional facilities including, but not necessarily limited to, persons convicted of driving under the influence and physical control of vehicle while under the influence; and
- correctional facility means a facility primarily designed, staffed, and used for the housing of adult persons serving terms not exceeding one year for the purposes of punishment, correction, and rehabilitation following conviction of a criminal offense.

Contracts for Jail Services Between Counties and Cities. Counties and cities are free to contract jail services with other counties and cities. The contracts must be in writing, and lay out the responsibilities each governing unit involved.

Confinement Pursuant to Authority of the United States. When room is available and provision given by the United States for the support of a person confined and any additional personnel required, a person in charge of a jail must receive and keep all persons confined or committed under authority of the United States until discharged according to law.

Judicial Warrant. A judicial warrant is a written order, issued by a judicial court and signed by a judicial officer, that authorizes an arresting law enforcement officer to make an arrest, search, or seizure.

Summary of Bill: Allows a person in charge of a jail to choose to receive and keep in the jail, when room is available, a person that is confined or committed by process or order issued under the authority of the United States.

Except in the instances in which there is a valid judicial warrant, a requirement is created that any such agreement to confine or commit individuals in a jail be made by a contract with the United States, and entered into prior to the jail accepting any person in federal custody.

The contract must include a fee for the total cost to the jail to confine or commit an individual that is in federal custody. If funds are not received or the jail is given an indication that funds will not be received from the United States then the jail must no longer agree to hold federal detainees.

Except in the instance when a valid judicial warrant has been issued, no county or municipality may contract the use of their jail with the United States to confine or commit an individual that has been transported across state lines.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 13, 2026.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill addresses a situation that happened this summer where federal law enforcement brought detainees from Oregon across state lines. Washington State law needs some clarity that better defines when and under what circumstances federal law enforcement may detain individuals, and transport them across state lines and require them to be held in county jails. A formal agreement should be made for the federal government to pay for the services provided by county and local jails because those fees are normally paid by the local tax payers. The bill prevents local governments from being placed in legally uncertain situations when they lack basic information. It also prevents taxpayers in Washington from absorbing high costs of federal detention without reimbursement. The legislation gives local law enforcement the clarity and legal certainty in fast moving situations. It provides good clarity for counties and our jails with regard to the coordination with the federal government and those that are in their custody.

OTHER: The flexibility in the bill to change it from shall to may and make it discretionary for a jail is a good thing. The bill ignores that there are several situations where a judicial warrant would not have been issued, and there needs to be some exceptions for those instances. It's not practical for all 46 jails to be able to have a contract in place.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Annette Cleveland, Prime Sponsor; Jake García, Latino Community Fund of Washington State; Brad Banks, Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC); Dian Perez.

OTHER: James McMahan, WA Assoc Sheriffs & Police Chiefs.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.