
SENATE BILL 5260

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Christian and Braun

Read first time 01/14/25. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to emergency measures for managing juvenile
2 populations at state juvenile correctional institutions; adding a new
3 section to chapter 13.40 RCW; creating new sections; and declaring an
4 emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that juvenile
7 rehabilitation under the department of children, youth, and families
8 is dangerously overcrowded. Overcrowding is contributing to high
9 levels of violence and drug use, and is impeding the ability of youth
10 to be rehabilitated.

11 The legislature further finds that young adults may be better
12 served by transferring their custody to the department of
13 corrections. Such transfers will allow youth to access job programs
14 and education, and place them closer to their families.

15 The legislature further finds that modern brain science
16 demonstrates that as youth age they continue maturing and that as
17 developing adults they should be given the opportunity to make
18 decisions about their own rehabilitation. Furthermore, youth should
19 be given the opportunity to form a vested interest in their own
20 rehabilitation.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 13.40
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Any person, who is at least 18 years old and is placed in a
4 facility operated by the department of children, youth, and families,
5 may request that the person be transferred to the custody of the
6 department of corrections. The secretary of the department of
7 children, youth, and families shall coordinate with the secretary of
8 the department of corrections and shall transfer any person who makes
9 such a request under this section.

10 (2) Any person who makes a transfer request shall have three days
11 to reconsider the transfer request. Following the three-day waiting
12 period, the person shall be transferred from the department of
13 children, youth, and families to the custody of the department of
14 corrections within 10 days.

15 (3) The secretary of the department of children, youth, and
16 families and the secretary of the department of corrections shall
17 develop a form for a person to make a transfer request. The form must
18 be made available to the person upon request. The secretary of the
19 department of children, youth, and families shall inform all persons
20 presently in its custody of the ability to be transferred under this
21 section. Any person entering the custody of the department of
22 children, youth, and families must be informed of the requirements of
23 this section during intake.

24 (4) The hearing requirements in RCW 13.40.280 do not apply to a
25 person transferred to the department of corrections under this
26 section.

27 (5) A juvenile offender transferred pursuant to this section may
28 not remain in an institution operated by the department of
29 corrections beyond the maximum term of confinement imposed by the
30 juvenile court.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act may be known and cited as the
32 Youth Rehabilitation Pathways Act.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
34 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
35 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
36 effect immediately.

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