
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6085

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services (originally sponsored by Senators C. Wilson, Nobles, and Wellman)

READ FIRST TIME 01/28/26.

1 AN ACT Relating to the transparency in expenditures from the
2 institutional welfare account; amending RCW 72.09.092; adding a new
3 section to chapter 72.09 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that providing
6 incarcerated individuals with meaningful opportunities for personal
7 enrichment, family visitation and contact, recreation, and related
8 activities supports rehabilitation and prosocial behavior and
9 contributes to institutional safety and well-being. The legislature
10 further recognizes the importance of ensuring that expenditures from
11 the institutional welfare account are informed by the lived
12 experiences and real-time needs of incarcerated individuals.

13 Accordingly, the legislature intends to formalize a collaborative
14 process among the department of corrections and the incarcerated
15 individuals served by the institutional welfare account. To promote
16 equitable and informed decision making, the legislature further finds
17 that community and affinity groups comprised of currently
18 incarcerated individuals should be consulted to the greatest extent
19 practicable.

20 The legislature intends for the department of corrections to make
21 reasonable efforts to establish and maintain an ongoing feedback loop

1 among incarcerated individuals, their families, and the department
2 regarding the availability and quality of goods, services, and
3 programs at correctional institutions managed by the department.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 72.09.092 and 2025 c 399 s 10 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The institutional welfare account is created in the state
7 treasury. Moneys in the account may be spent only after
8 appropriation. The account shall consist of all moneys in the
9 incarcerated individual betterment fund held by the department as of
10 July 1, 2025, ((and)) any revenue and receipts into the incarcerated
11 individual betterment fund on or after July 1, 2025, and all receipts
12 from legislative appropriations, donations, gifts, grants, and funds
13 from federal or private sources. Expenditures from the account may be
14 used only for the benefit of incarcerated individuals within the
15 department. Such benefits include, but are not limited to, support
16 for family visitation, prison visiting areas and extended family
17 visit programs, family-centered activities, law library books,
18 subscriptions, recreation and hobby expenditures, reentry services,
19 and television system, phone, and computer communication
20 expenditures.

21 (2) The department shall develop a process for approving
22 expenditures from the institutional welfare account that is informed
23 by the real-time needs and lived experiences of incarcerated
24 individuals and their families.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 72.09
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 (1) The department shall make reasonable efforts to establish and
28 maintain an ongoing feedback mechanism for incarcerated individuals
29 and their families, including through the use of surveys or other
30 methods, to gather information regarding the availability of, and
31 need for, additional benefits as described in RCW 72.09.092. At a
32 minimum, the department shall:

33 (a) Provide regular opportunities for incarcerated individuals to
34 submit feedback regarding the availability and quality of services,
35 goods, and programs at the facility in which they are currently
36 housed.

37 (b) Provide family members of incarcerated individuals with
38 opportunities to submit feedback regarding the visitation process and

1 the availability and quality of services, goods, and programs at the
2 facility in which the incarcerated individual is housed.

3 (c) At least annually, survey known affinity groups comprised of
4 currently incarcerated individuals to collect feedback regarding the
5 availability and quality of services, goods, and programs at
6 facilities managed by the department.

7 (2) At least annually, the department shall compile and review
8 all information collected pursuant to this subsection, including
9 surveys and other feedback instruments, and shall prepare a report
10 summarizing feedback from incarcerated individuals and their families
11 and identifying high-priority expenditures from the institutional
12 welfare account.

13 (3) Beginning December 31, 2026, and every December 31st
14 thereafter, the department must create a report and make it available
15 on their public website detailing all expenditures from the
16 institutional welfare account. The report shall include expenditure
17 information on a facility-by-facility basis and a description of the
18 process by which the department solicited feedback from incarcerated
19 individuals and their families. The report must also include the
20 information collected and summarized in subsection (2) of this
21 section.

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