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**SENATE BILL 6085**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Senators C. Wilson, Nobles, and Wellman

Read first time 01/13/26. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

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 (3) No funds received by the institutional welfare account may be  
26 used for the creation or maintenance of a law library.

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

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

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

1 (b) Provide family members of incarcerated individuals with  
2 opportunities to submit feedback regarding the visitation process and  
3 the availability and quality of services, goods, and programs at the  
4 facility in which the incarcerated individual is housed.

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

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

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

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