

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SHB 1727

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to alien offenders.

Brief Description: Providing a procedure for releasing alien offenders for the purpose of deportation.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Corrections (originally sponsored by Representatives Morris, Long, G. Cole, Padden, Mastin, Lemmon and L. Johnson; by request of Department of Corrections).

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
Corrections, March 3, 1993, DPS;
Passed House, March 15, 1993, 97-0;
Amended by Senate;
Passed Legislature, April 20, 1993, 97-0.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Morris, Chair; Mastin, Vice Chair; Long, Ranking Minority Member; Edmondson, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; G. Cole; L. Johnson; Ogden; Riley; and Padden.

Staff: Jim Lux (786-7841).

Background: Inmates incarcerated in state correctional facilities who are aliens, currently serve their entire sentence before being deported to their home country.

Summary of Bill: Any alien who is found by the United States attorney general, subject to a final order of deportation or exclusion, may be placed on conditional release status and released to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for deportation. Release for deportation can be any time before the expiration of the offender's criminal sentence. Release is at the discretion of the secretary of the Department of Corrections if the release is in the best interest of the state. Release may occur only with the approval of the sentencing court and the prosecuting attorney of the county of conviction. Conditional release continues until the offender's maximum

sentence expires; and, if an offender has multiple current convictions, the maximum sentence allowed for each crime shall run concurrently. No release is permitted for offenders serving a sentence for a violent offense, sex offense or any other offense that is a crime against a person.

Upon release of the offender to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the unserved portion of confinement begins to toll. At the time of release, the department shall issue a warrant for the offender's arrest. If the deported alien offender reenters the United States and is arrested, law enforcement will know the Department of Corrections has an arrest warrant and return interest in the offender.

If an alien offender who has been conditionally released returns to the United States and is arrested, the offender is entitled to an administrative hearing consistent with the provisions of conditional release status.

An alien offender who is returned to the department to complete a term of confinement, must fully comply with all terms and conditions of the sentence.

Alien offenders released to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for deportation must fulfill their obligation to pay restitution or other legal financial obligations ordered by the sentencing court.

Any offender released and who returns illegally may not be released a second time.

The secretary is authorized to take all reasonable actions to implement this legislation and shall assist federal authorities in prosecuting alien offenders who illegally reenter the United States and enter the state of Washington.

The department is instructed to take the necessary steps to contract with countries bordering the continental United States for the transfer and incarceration of alien offenders from those bordering countries. Appropriate federal agencies shall be contacted to develop plans for these contracts. The department is to report back to the Legislature on its progress by December 12, 1993.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Testimony For: The ability to deport eligible alien offenders to their home country before their prison term is completed will reduce overcrowding and generate financial savings.

Testimony Against: None.

Witnesses: (Pro): Tom Rolfe, Department of Corrections; and Mike Redman, Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.