

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESHB 1922

PARTIAL VETO

Synopsis as Enacted

C 338 L 93

Brief Description: Creating a work ethic boot camp program within the department of corrections.

By House Committee on Corrections (originally sponsored by Representatives Lemmon, Mastin, Morris, Hansen, Basich, Kessler, Johanson, Scott, Tate, Bray, Campbell, Dunshee, Eide, Orr, Grant, Lisk, Ludwig, R. Meyers, Springer, Finkbeiner, Dorn, Vance, Quall, Kremen, Rayburn, Brough, Foreman, Riley, L. Johnson, Horn, King, Forner, Roland, Ogden, Thomas, Brumsickle, Long, Casada, Ballasiotes, Mielke, Cooke, Van Luven and Karahalios).

House Committee on Corrections
Senate Committee on Law & Justice
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background: The Department of Corrections is responsible for providing services to evaluate, control, and redirect the behavior of adult felony offenders committed to its jurisdiction by the courts. The system provides programs designed to avoid idleness and promote the work ethic and self-improvement opportunities.

The Department of Corrections does not administer a boot camp program. The department does, however, administer a range of offender work programs including four active forest camp programs throughout the state. The forest camp programs house men and women in barrack-style housing and require the offenders to perform hard physical labor in the forest such as fighting fires, tree planting, and tree thinning, and also to attend off-work education, drug treatment, and anger management classes.

Approximately 14 states are conducting as many as 25 boot camp incarceration programs in the United States. Most of the programs are modeled after the United States military style boot camp; however, work programs are a component in many of the programs. Of the 10 states reportedly initiating a new boot camp program, most are developing their programs with a focus on the work ethic component. Although research information about boot camps is still relatively sparse, the trend nationwide seems to indicate that recidivism may be reduced. Data show that recidivism

rates range from about 35 percent in a traditional military style boot camp in Georgia to less than 17 percent in a modified work style boot camp in Idaho. The average national recidivism rate is approximately 45 percent.

Summary: The secretary of the Department of Corrections is required to establish, within 120 days after the effective date of the act, a work ethic camp pilot program effective until July 1, 1998. The department must establish the work ethic camp within an already existing department compound or facility or a new facility that is scheduled to be completed within the program's implementation date. The work ethic camp program must last from 120 to 180 days. The department is given the authority to set the capacity of the work ethic camp.

Offenders are recommended to the work ethic camp program as a condition of their sentence by the sentencing judge. The judge is required to convert the period of work ethic camp confinement at a rate of one day of work camp to three days of total standard confinement. The sentence must also include a component of community placement post-release supervision upon release from the work ethic camp. In addition, two weeks prior to release from the work ethic camp, the offender is required to undergo transition training.

An offender is eligible for sentencing to the work ethic camp, if the offender:

- (1) is between the ages of 18 and 28;
- (2) has no known physical or mental impairments that would prevent his/her ability to perform the program's mandatory physical and mental activities;
- (3) is a first time drug offender or an offender sentenced from 22 to 36 months;
- (4) is not convicted of any sex or violent offenses; and
- (5) agrees to the terms and conditions of the program.

Program standards, conduct standards, educational components, drug rehabilitation program parameters, individual and team work goals, and guidelines and timelines for successful program completion are determined by the Department of Corrections. The work ethics camp program components include:

- (1) real-world vocational job experiences;

- (2) character building work ethic training;
- (3) life management skills development;
- (4) substance rehabilitation and counseling;
- (5) literacy training;
- (6) adult basic education and general education development test achievement;
- (7) an intense range of character and skill building challenges; and
- (8) citizenship skills and measures to hold the offender accountable for his or her behavior.

The offender can be expelled from the program for failure to comply to program rules as determined by the department. Those offenders expelled from the program are required to be reclassified and serve the remainder of their sentence in another facility.

The department is required to employ 100 percent of all the offenders in the program in class I, class II, class III, and class IV correctional industries job programs. Initially, no more than 35 percent of the inmates are allowed to work in class III jobs. After the first year, the percentage of class III jobs is required to be reduced by 10 percent until no more than 10 percent of all offenders are employed in this class of work. The department is also given the authority to conduct prison work crews that can conduct litter control and minor emergency repair on public roads. All work done by the work crews must not negatively impact employment for persons with developmental disabilities or have a negative impact on the local labor or business market. The work ethics camp program is required to emphasize work programs that positively impact the natural environment.

The department and the Office of Financial Management are required to analyze the effectiveness of the program through a review of recidivism rates, program costs, and public safety success. Interested universities are encouraged to participate in the program evaluation. The final outcome evaluation report is due January 15, 1998.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	98	0	
Senate	43	2	(Senate amended)
House	97	0	(House concurred)

Effective: July 1, 1993

Partial Veto Summary: Both the mandatory percentages of total inmates employed in the work ethic camp and the percentages of inmates employed in Class I, II, III, or IV correctional industries programs in the work ethic camp are eliminated. (See VETO MESSAGE)