
HOUSE BILL 2426

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Appelwick, Wineberry, Scott, Karahalios, Johanson, J. Kohl, Romero, Thibaudeau, Conway, Holm and Jones

Read first time 01/14/94. Referred to Committee on Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to juvenile justice; and creating new sections.

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

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the juvenile
4 justice act of 1977 requires comprehensive review and revision. While
5 the act's dual goals of meaningful and fair punishment and effective
6 rehabilitation remain laudable, the act's substantive provisions
7 reflect an overly rigid and overly complex disposition scheme that
8 defeats realization of both goals. As implemented, the act's "just
9 desserts" model has sacrificed the state's ability to intervene with
10 intensive rehabilitation efforts and meaningful, timely punishment
11 directed towards children in danger of becoming serious and chronic
12 offenders. At the same time, the act inadequately addresses growing
13 public concern about those offenders who, regardless of their maturity,
14 pose an undeniable threat to the safety of themselves, other children,
15 and the community by virtue of their access to weapons and drugs, their
16 involvement with gangs, and their willingness to engage in violent
17 acts. The legislature finds that it is time to take a fresh look and
18 approach at juvenile justice in the state of Washington.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature, through its respective
2 committees, shall review the juvenile justice act of 1977 and related
3 provisions concerning children, and make recommendations to the
4 legislature for revision of the juvenile justice system to improve the
5 state's ability to effectively rehabilitate and punish juvenile
6 offenders and to protect the community.

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