
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4433

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Morris, Long, Mastin, Edmondson, G. Cole, R. Meyers, Moak, Quall, Ogden, L. Johnson, Ballasiotes, Conway, Chappell, Campbell and Brumsickle

Read first time 02/24/94. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 WHEREAS, The "earned early release" program within the Department
2 of Corrections allows prison inmates to shorten their confinement by as
3 much as one-third of their originally imposed sentences; and

4 WHEREAS, Earned early release time is required by statute to be
5 based in part on a prisoner's good behavior during confinement, which
6 requirement the Department of Corrections satisfies through the
7 granting of good-time credits; and

8 WHEREAS, Good-time credits account for the largest component of
9 available earned early release time; and

10 WHEREAS, Questions have been raised concerning the advisability and
11 effectiveness of the state's granting of good-time credits; and

12 WHEREAS, Restricting, restructuring, replacing, or eliminating the
13 state's granting of good-time credits potentially affects the
14 correctional system's ability to control inmates and potentially
15 involves a large fiscal impact on state government;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of
17 the state of Washington, the Senate concurring, That a Legislative Task
18 Force on Good-Time Credits be established to: (1) Review the current
19 statutes, regulations, and administrative policies under which the
20 Department of Corrections grants good-time credits; (2) study the
21 effect that good-time programs have on recidivism rates; (3) consider

1 modifications and alternatives to the Department of Corrections' use of
2 good-time credits and other incentives for controlling inmate behavior;
3 and (4) estimate the fiscal impact of any recommended modifications or
4 alternatives; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall consist of the
6 following ten voting members:

7 (1) Five members from the Senate Committee on Law and Justice, one
8 of whom shall be the committee chair, two of whom shall be additional
9 members from the majority party, and two of whom shall be members from
10 the minority party, to be appointed by the President of the Senate; and

11 (2) Five members from the House of Representatives Committee on
12 Corrections, one of whom shall be the committee chair, two of whom
13 shall be additional members from the majority party, and two of whom
14 shall be members from the minority party, to be appointed by the
15 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a representative from the Department
17 of Corrections shall act as a liaison and nonvoting member of the task
18 force; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall be cochaired by
20 the chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Corrections and
21 the chair of the Senate Committee on Law and Justice, or their
22 designees; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force, where feasible, may
24 consult with members of the public and private sectors or ask such
25 persons to form an advisory committee; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall use legislative
27 staff and facilities. All expenses of the task force, including
28 travel, shall be paid jointly by the Senate and the House of
29 Representatives; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall report its
31 findings and recommendations to the legislature by December 31, 1994;
32 and

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall expire December
34 31, 1994.

--- END ---