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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5919**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Roach, Winsley, Stevens, Zarelli, Wood, Schow and Oke)

Read first time 03/05/97.

1 AN ACT Relating to the special sex offender sentencing alternative;  
2 and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that most child sexual  
5 abuse victims know or are related to their offenders and often express  
6 a wish that the offenders receive treatment. The legislature further  
7 finds that a primary rationale for the enactment of the special sex  
8 offender sentencing alternative was that many victims, child victims in  
9 particular, might not cooperate with the prosecution if the only  
10 possible outcome was incarceration without treatment.

11 Since enactment of the sentencing alternative, no systematic  
12 evaluation of the sentencing alternative's impact on victims has been  
13 conducted. The legislature intends such an analysis be conducted to  
14 assist the legislature in determining the extent to which the  
15 sentencing alternative continues to serve the purposes for which it was  
16 enacted.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of community, trade, and  
18 economic development shall contract with the Harborview medical center

1 sexual assault center to conduct a study of the impact on victims of  
2 the special sex offender sentencing alternative from money appropriated  
3 by the legislature. The study shall include a geographically diverse  
4 sample of at least two hundred victims whose offenders received the  
5 sentencing alternative at least four years prior to the commencement of  
6 the study.

7 (2) The study shall include, at a minimum, an analysis of:

8 (a) Victims' attitudes and perceptions about the sentencing  
9 alternative before sentencing and after their offenders' participation  
10 in the sentencing alternative;

11 (b) If victims' attitudes and perceptions changed over time, the  
12 variables influencing the changes; and

13 (c) The relationship, if any, between victims' attitudes and  
14 perceptions about the sentencing alternative and their current  
15 psychological and social functioning.

16 (3) Not later than December 1, 1998, the center shall report to the  
17 legislature on the results of this study. The report shall include a  
18 description of the methodology used to conduct the study, the findings  
19 and conclusions resulting from the analysis conducted in the study, and  
20 recommendations, if any, on ways to improve the sentencing alternative  
21 to better serve the purposes for which it was created.

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