

---

SENATE BILL 6519

---

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Kline, Hochstatter, Prentice, Thibaudeau, Regala,  
Kohl-Welles and Winsley

Read first time 01/21/2002. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to restoring voting rights to felons upon  
2 completion of supervision; adding new sections to chapter 9.94A RCW;  
3 and adding a new section to chapter 9.96 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 9.94A RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) When a person who has been convicted of one or more felonies  
8 has completed all of the requirements of all of his or her sentences,  
9 except for legal financial obligations, the secretary or the  
10 secretary's designee shall issue a certificate of restoration of the  
11 right to vote to the offender. A continuing obligation to refrain from  
12 contacting certain persons or being in certain locations is not  
13 affected by, and shall not bar, the issuance of this certificate.

14 (2) The certificate shall be provided to the offender in person or  
15 by mailing the certificate to the offender's last known address. It  
16 shall also be sent to the secretary of state and the county auditor for  
17 the county of the offender's last known address. In making a  
18 reasonable effort to assure that the notice reaches the offender, the  
19 department shall utilize likely sources of current address information,

1 such as the department of licensing, and shall take steps to ascertain  
2 that the person to whom the notice is sent is accurately identified.  
3 The department shall maintain an easily accessible record of the  
4 issuance of the certificate.

5 (3) The certificate shall have the sole effect of restoring the  
6 voting right of the offender, and the certificate shall so state.  
7 Nothing in this section affects or prevents the enforcement of legal  
8 financial obligations or the offender's obligation to comply with an  
9 order issued under chapter 10.99 RCW that excludes or prohibits the  
10 offender from having contact with a specified person or coming within  
11 a set distance of any specified location that was contained in the  
12 judgment and sentence.

13 (4) The department shall issue certificates of restoration of the  
14 right to vote to all felony offenders who have completed all of the  
15 requirements of their sentences prior to the effective date of this  
16 act, except for legal financial obligations, if a certificate of  
17 discharge has not previously been issued for that offender under RCW  
18 9.94A.637. The department shall utilize the same procedures for notice  
19 as set forth in subsection (2) of this section.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 9.96 RCW  
21 to read as follows:

22 (1) When an offender has completed all of the requirements of all  
23 of his or her sentences, except for legal financial obligations, the  
24 indeterminate sentencing review board shall issue a certificate of  
25 restoration of the right to vote to the offender. A continuing  
26 obligation to refrain from contacting certain persons or being in  
27 certain locations is not affected by, and shall not bar, the issuance  
28 of this certificate.

29 (2) The certificate shall be provided to the offender in person or  
30 by mailing the certificate to the offender's last known address. It  
31 shall also be sent to the secretary of state and the county auditor for  
32 the county of the offender's last known address. In making a  
33 reasonable effort to assure that the notice reaches the offender, the  
34 board shall utilize likely sources of current address information, such  
35 as the department of licensing, and shall take steps to ascertain that  
36 the person to whom the notice is sent is accurately identified. The  
37 department of corrections shall maintain an easily accessible record of  
38 the issuance of the certificate.

1 (3) The certificate shall have the sole effect of restoring the  
2 voting right of the offender, and the certificate shall so state.  
3 Nothing in this section affects or prevents the enforcement of legal  
4 financial obligations or the offender's obligation to comply with an  
5 order issued under chapter 10.99 RCW that excludes or prohibits the  
6 offender from having contact with a specified person or coming within  
7 a set distance of any specified location that was contained in the  
8 judgment and sentence.

9 (4) The board shall issue certificates of restoration of the right  
10 to vote to all felony offenders who have completed all of the  
11 requirements of their sentences prior to the effective date of this  
12 act, except for legal financial obligations, if a certificate of  
13 discharge has not previously been issued for that offender under RCW  
14 9.96.050. The board shall utilize the same procedures for notice as  
15 set forth in subsection (2) of this section.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 9.94A RCW  
17 to read as follows:

18 (1) When an offender has completed all of the requirements of all  
19 of his or her federal or out-of-state felony sentences, except for  
20 legal financial obligations, the clemency and pardons board shall issue  
21 a certificate of restoration of the right to vote to the offender. A  
22 continuing obligation to refrain from contacting certain persons or  
23 being in certain locations is not affected by, and shall not bar, the  
24 issuance of this certificate.

25 (2) The certificate shall be provided to the offender in person or  
26 by mailing the certificate to the offender's last known address. It  
27 shall also be sent to the secretary of state and the county auditor for  
28 the county of the offender's last known address. In making a  
29 reasonable effort to assure that the notice reaches the offender, the  
30 board shall utilize likely sources of current address information, such  
31 as the department of licensing, and shall take steps to ascertain that  
32 the person to whom the notice is sent is accurately identified. The  
33 department of corrections shall maintain an easily accessible record of  
34 the issuance of the certificate.

35 (3) The certificate shall have the sole effect of restoring the  
36 voting right of the offender, and the certificate shall so state.  
37 Nothing in this section affects or prevents the enforcement of legal  
38 financial obligations or the offender's obligation to comply with an

1 order issued that excludes or prohibits the offender from having  
2 contact with a specified person or coming within a set distance of any  
3 specified location that was contained in the judgment and sentence.

4 (4) The board shall issue certificates of restoration of the right  
5 to vote to all felony offenders who have completed all of the  
6 requirements of their sentences prior to the effective date of this  
7 act, except for legal financial obligations. The board shall utilize  
8 the same procedures for notice as set forth in subsection (2) of this  
9 section.

--- END ---