

2338-S2

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Kagi, Ballasiotes, O'Brien, Lantz, Dickerson, Linville, McIntire, Conway and Wood)

Brief Description: Revising sentences for drug offenses.

HB 2338-S2 - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Adopts the recommendations of the sentencing guidelines commission regarding drug offenses.

Declares an intent to increase the use of effective substance abuse treatment for defendants and offenders in Washington in order to make frugal use of state and local resources, thus reducing recidivism and increasing the likelihood that defendants and offenders will become productive and law-abiding persons.

Recognizes that substance abuse treatment can be effective if it is well planned and involves adequate monitoring, and that substance abuse and addiction is a public safety and public health issue that must be more effectively addressed if recidivism is to be reduced.

Intends that sentences for drug offenses accurately reflect the adverse impact of substance abuse and addiction on public safety, that the public must have protection from violent offenders, and further intends that such sentences be based on policies that are supported by research and public policy goals established by the legislature.

Directs the Washington state institute for public policy to evaluate the effectiveness of the drug offense sentencing grid in reducing recidivism and its financial impact. The Washington state institute for public policy shall present a preliminary report to the legislature by December 1, 2007, and shall present a final report regarding long-term recidivism and its financial impacts to the legislature by December 1, 2008.

Directs the Washington state institute for public policy to by March 1, 2003, report on the cost-effectiveness of existing drug courts in Washington and their impacts on reducing recidivism.

Provides that, if specific funding for the purposes of this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by June 30, 2002, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and void.