

6361-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Senators Kline, Long, Kohl-Welles, Hargrove, McCaslin and Oke)

Brief Description: Revising sentences for drug offenses.

**SB 6361-S - DIGEST**

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

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 issue that must be more effectively addressed if recidivism is to be reduced.

Declares an intent 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.