
**Juvenile Justice & Family Law
Committee**

HB 1028

Brief Description: Studying programs for at-risk youth intervention.

Sponsors: Representatives Dickerson, Delvin, Kagi, O'Brien, Kenney and Upthegrove.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Directs the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to conduct research and recommend to the legislature criteria, processes, and institutional arrangements so that best practices could be state-certified and reductions in the justice system caseloads and cost savings could be estimated.

Hearing Date: 1/23/03

Staff: Trudes Hutcheson (786-7384).

Background:

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) is a research organization created by the Legislature to provide nonpartisan research at legislative direction on issues of importance to Washington.

In May 2001, the WSIPP published its report, *The Comparative Costs and Benefits of Programs to Reduce Crime*, which focused on the economics of various nationwide programs designed to reduce criminal behavior in adults and juveniles. The WSIPP research found, among other things, that: (a) certain programs, especially designed for juvenile offenders, can improve the effectiveness of Washington's criminal justice system; (b) some programs studied do not lower criminality and have negative economic bottom lines; and (c) evaluations of the programs are necessary to determine if outcomes are being achieved in a cost-beneficial manner. The report did not address what changes were needed for the state to implement best practices or how to forecast caseloads, crime reduction, or savings as a result of implementing the programs.

Summary of Bill:

The WSIPP is directed to conduct research necessary to develop and make recommendations to the Legislature regarding the criteria, processes and institutional arrangements needed to:

- (1) State-certify proven best practices in intervention and prevention programs focused on youth at risk for involvement in the adult and juvenile justice systems;
- (2) estimate any resulting reductions in the state justice system caseloads; and
- (3) estimate the unit cost and the total cost savings for the intervention and prevention programs.

The findings and recommendations must be reported to the Legislature by December 15, 2003.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 15, 2003.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect on May 1, 2003.