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SENATE BILL 6308

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session

By Senators Carrell, Stevens, Regala, Schoesler, Schmidt, Oke and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/11/2006. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1            AN ACT Relating to creating a joint select committee on offenders  
2 programs, sentencing, and supervision; creating new sections; and  
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that "good time"  
6 should be productive time, especially for those incarcerated in  
7 Washington's criminal justice facilities. The legislature finds that  
8 it is important to the safety of the public and to rehabilitation of  
9 offenders that changes be considered to other programs offered in  
10 prisons and in the community. The legislature further finds that  
11 reforms to sentencing and supervision of offenders returning to the  
12 community may enhance public safety and reduce crime and victimization.  
13 Therefore, the legislature intends to create a joint select committee  
14 on offenders programs, sentencing, and supervision to provide findings  
15 and recommendations for the 2007 legislative session.

16            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** A joint select committee on offenders  
17 programs, sentencing, and supervision is established.

1 (1) The joint select committee shall consist of the following  
2 persons:

3 (a) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate,  
4 appointed by the president of the senate, with at least one member  
5 being a member of the senate human services and corrections committee;

6 (b) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house  
7 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of  
8 representatives, with at least one member being a member of the house  
9 criminal justice and corrections committee;

10 (c) Three members from the department of social and health  
11 services, representing mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, and  
12 medical assistance;

13 (d) One member from the Washington state association of counties;

14 (e) One member from the association of Washington cities;

15 (f) Two members representing crime victims, appointed jointly by  
16 the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of  
17 representatives;

18 (g) One person from the Washington association of prosecuting  
19 attorneys;

20 (h) One person from the Washington association of criminal defense  
21 lawyers;

22 (i) One person from the state board for community and technical  
23 colleges;

24 (j) One person from the department of corrections representing  
25 community corrections officers;

26 (k) One person from the Washington federation of state employees;

27 (l) One person from the department of corrections representing  
28 correctional staff;

29 (m) One person selected by the governor; and

30 (n) Two persons representing local law enforcement, with one  
31 representing cities and one representing counties.

32 (2) The chair of the joint select committee shall be a legislative  
33 member chosen by the joint select committee members.

34 (3) The joint select committee shall review and make  
35 recommendations regarding:

36 (a) The type of offender that would benefit most in terms of  
37 personal achievement, responsibility, and community safety, by having

1 the opportunity to receive enhanced training and education while in  
2 prison;

3 (b) The types of training and educational programs that would  
4 provide the greatest return on investment with regard to offender  
5 achievement, responsibility, and community;

6 (c) Changes to the sentencing law and policies related to "good  
7 time" that would encourage incarcerated offenders to participate in  
8 training and programs that will increase the likelihood that they will  
9 be able to support themselves when they leave prison and reduce  
10 recidivism;

11 (d) A method for evaluating the return on the investment and  
12 determining from front line department of corrections staff and  
13 community partners, whether the changes are improving personal  
14 responsibility on the part of the offender and reducing crime in the  
15 community; and

16 (e) Changes to community supervision that would provide greater  
17 safety to the public and incentives for prisons in adhering to  
18 treatment, educational goals, and reducing recidivism.

19 (4) The joint select committee shall present a report of its  
20 findings and recommendations to the governor and the appropriate  
21 committees of the legislature, including any proposed legislation, by  
22 November 15, 2007.

23 (5) The joint select committee may, where feasible, consult with  
24 individuals from the public and private sector in carrying out its  
25 duties under this section.

26 (6) Nonlegislative members of the joint select committee shall  
27 serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses  
28 as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060. Legislative members of the  
29 joint select committee shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as  
30 provided in RCW 44.04.120.

31 (7) The staff from senate committee services and the office of  
32 program research of the house of representatives shall provide support  
33 to the joint select committee.

34 (8) This section expires December 1, 2007.

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