

ESSB 6157 - H AMD 915

By Representative Strow

WITHDRAWN 04/21/2007

1 On page 27, after line 31, insert the following:

2 "(g)(i) The legislature finds that public safety is one of the
3 paramount duties of the state and an essential function of government.
4 The legislature further finds that a serious crisis currently exists
5 involving the early release of felons from total confinement into
6 community custody, community placement, or community supervision who
7 recidivate that presents an imminent and compelling threat to public
8 safety. The legislature further finds that this crisis must be
9 addressed expeditiously and unequivocally in order to rebuild public
10 confidence in the state's ability to adequately protect them from
11 criminal offenders who have been released from total incarceration but
12 are still serving their sentences in the community.

13 The legislature finds that earned release is a privilege; earned
14 release is not an entitlement and does not create a liberty interest.
15 The legislature therefore retains the ability to constrain the
16 department's discretion with respect to awarding earned release credits
17 to any offender under the department's jurisdiction.

18 (ii) For a period of twelve months beginning on the effective date
19 of this act, the department, in exercising its discretion under this
20 section, may not award earned release credits to any offenders
21 convicted of a violent offense;"

EFFECT: Prohibits the DOC from awarding earned release credits to any offenders who have been convicted of a violent offense for a period of twelve months and adds intent language to state that there is a crisis in the early release of felons from confinement and that there is a need to constrain the DOC's discretion to award early release credits to offenders.

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