

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5243

C 203 L 07

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Increasing the length of confinement for a parole violation committed by certain juvenile sex offenders.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Brandland, Hargrove, McAuliffe, Stevens, Rasmussen, Shin and Roach; by request of Department of Social and Health Services).

Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections

House Committee on Human Services

Background: After a juvenile offender is released from the custody of the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA), the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) may require that juvenile to comply with a program of parole in his or her community. The period of the juvenile's parole can last for up to 18 months, unless the juvenile has committed certain sex offenses, in which case the parole can last for up to 24 months, or unless the Secretary of the DSHS finds that an additional period of parole is necessary for reasons of public safety or to meet the needs of the juvenile, in which case parole may last for up to 36 months.

If the juvenile violates the conditions of his or her parole, the Secretary of the DSHS has a number of options, including increasing the juvenile's reporting obligations, imposing additional conditions of supervision, or imposing a period of confinement up to 30 days. If the juvenile was committed to the JRA for the commission of certain sex offenses and later violates his or her conditions of parole, the Secretary of the DSHS may return the juvenile to confinement for the remainder of his or her sentencing range.

Summary: Under certain circumstances, a juvenile confined for committing a "sex offense," as defined by RCW 9A.44.130, who violates parole, may be returned to confinement by the Secretary of the DSHS for a period of up to 24 weeks, not to exceed the remainder of his or her disposition. Confinement beyond 30 days for a youth's parole violation is intended only when other graduated sanctions or interventions have not been effective or the behavior is so egregious that it warrants the use of more intensive intervention and the violation meets certain criteria, such as fitting a known pattern of behavior consistent with a previous sex offense that puts the youth at high risk to re-offend sexually.

The total number of days of confinement for parole violations must not exceed the maximum sentence imposed by the disposition in the case, and multiple parole violations occurring before the revocation hearing cannot be stacked as consecutive 24-week terms of confinement.

The DSHS is authorized to engage in rule-making to implement this subsection.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	48	0	
House	96	0	(House amended)
Senate	48	0	(Senate concurred)

Effective: October 1, 2007