
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1874

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Roberts, Dickerson, Green, Pettigrew, O'Brien, Kagi, Dunshee, Hunt, Goodman, Jarrett, Darneille, Hasegawa, McCoy, Appleton, Upthegrove, Kessler, Kenney, Moeller, Lantz, Sells, Hurst, Simpson, McIntire and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to transition and reentry of offenders into the
2 community; amending RCW 72.09.460; adding a new section to chapter
3 72.04A RCW; adding a new section to chapter 72.09 RCW; adding a new
4 section to chapter 43.63A RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 72 RCW;
5 creating new sections; making appropriations; and providing an
6 expiration date.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that approximately
9 eight thousand five hundred offenders are returned to the community
10 from Washington prisons each year. Research from the Washington state
11 institute for public policy indicates that approximately fifty percent
12 of these offenders will commit another crime and return to prison or
13 jail within three years.

14 Washington's incarceration rate is expected to increase twenty-
15 three percent by the year 2019 and current long-term forecasts predict
16 that Washington will need to build two new prisons by 2020 and possibly
17 a third prison by 2030.

18 The Washington institute for public policy research finds that if
19 Washington successfully implements a moderate to aggressive portfolio

1 of evidence-based options, a significant level of future prison
2 construction can be avoided, taxpayers can save about two billion
3 dollars, and crime rates can be reduced.

4 It is the intent of the legislature to support evidence-based
5 programing for offenders and focus on facilitating the successful
6 reentry of offenders into the community. The goals of the offender
7 reentry programs are to increase public safety, maximize rehabilitation
8 of offenders, and lower recidivism. It is further the intent of the
9 legislature that the individual reentry plan, in addition to
10 facilitating offender reentry, will serve as a tool in managing
11 offenders while they are incarcerated.

12 The legislature also recognizes that some offenders will choose not
13 to take advantage of programming offered and will continue to commit
14 crimes. The legislature intends to increase public safety by holding
15 these offenders accountable for their actions. In order to do so, it
16 is necessary to ensure the offenders are more closely supervised when
17 they are released into the community under the supervision of the
18 department. The legislature intends to increase the number of
19 community corrections officers, and reduce the caseloads of existing
20 officers, to enable the community corrections officers to be better
21 able to supervise the offenders in the community.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
23 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

24 (1) "Department" means the department of corrections.

25 (2) "Community justice center" means a nonresidential facility
26 staffed primarily by the department in which recently released inmates
27 may access services necessary to improve their successful reentry into
28 the community and where former inmates may receive information
29 regarding services available within the community from the community
30 transition coordinator. The services may include, but are not limited
31 to, those listed in the individual reentry plan, mental health,
32 chemical dependency, anger management, parenting education, financial
33 literacy, housing assistance, and employment assistance.

34 (3) "Community transition coordinator" means a person designated by
35 the department to provide information to former inmates regarding
36 services available within the community to assist the former inmate in
37 successfully transitioning into the community.

1 (4) "Individual reentry plan" means the plan to prepare the inmate
2 for release into the community. It is developed collaboratively
3 between the department and the inmate. The plan is based on an
4 assessment of the inmate using a standardized and comprehensive tool.
5 The individual reentry plan describes actions that must occur to
6 prepare individual offenders for release from the custody of the
7 department and specifies the supervision and services they will
8 experience in the community. An individual reentry plan is updated
9 throughout the period of an offender's incarceration and supervision is
10 to be relevant to the offender's current needs and risks.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department shall develop an
12 individual reentry plan as defined in subsection (6) of this section
13 for every offender who is committed to a correctional facility operated
14 by the department. The individual reentry plan may be one document, or
15 may be a series of individual plans that combine to meet the
16 requirements of this section.

17 (2) In developing individual reentry plans, the department shall
18 assess all offenders using standardized and comprehensive tools to
19 identify the criminogenic risks, programmatic needs, and educational
20 and vocational skill levels for each offender. The assessment tool
21 should take into account demographic biases, such as culture, age, and
22 gender, as well as the needs of the offender, including any learning
23 disabilities, substance abuse or mental health issues, and social or
24 behavior deficits.

25 (3)(a) The initial assessment shall be conducted as early as
26 sentencing, but no later than forty-five days after entry into the
27 correctional system and shall be periodically reviewed and updated as
28 appropriate.

29 (b) The offender's individual reentry plan shall be developed as
30 soon as possible after the initial assessment is conducted, but no
31 later than sixty days after the completion of the assessment.

32 (4) The individual reentry plan shall, at a minimum, include:

33 (a) A plan to maintain contact with the inmate's children and
34 family, if appropriate. The plan should determine whether parenting
35 classes, or other services, are appropriate to facilitate successful
36 reunification with the offender's children and family;

1 (b) An individualized portfolio for each offender that includes the
2 offender's education achievements, certifications, employment, work
3 experience, skills, and any training received prior to and during
4 incarceration; and

5 (c) A plan for the offender during the period of incarceration
6 through reentry into the community that addresses the needs of the
7 offender including education, employment, substance abuse treatment,
8 mental health treatment, family reunification, and other areas which
9 are needed to facilitate a successful reintegration into the community.

10 (5)(a) The individual reentry plan shall be updated as appropriate
11 during the period of incarceration to maintain relevancy to the
12 inmate's current risks and needs.

13 (b) The individual reentry plan shall be updated six months prior
14 to the inmate's release to reassess the inmate's specific needs upon
15 reentry. The individual reentry plan updated prior to release shall
16 address the following:

17 (i) The individual reentry plan should consider public safety
18 concerns and be consistent with the offender assigned risk management
19 level assigned by the department;

20 (ii) The plan for the offender to access housing immediately upon
21 release, including details of contact information for an individual to
22 assist with housing;

23 (iii) The plan for the offender to become connected with a
24 community justice center in the area in which the offender will be
25 residing once released from the correctional system.

26 (6) The individual reentry plan is a tool for use while the inmate
27 is incarcerated. The terms of the plan are not intended to be
28 conditions of release that are to be monitored by the community
29 corrections officers once the inmate is released and is in the
30 community. The plan for the inmate upon release and reentry into the
31 community is intended to assist the inmate in a successful transition
32 by creating a detailed plan to guide the inmate and connect the inmate
33 to resources available within the community.

34 (7) Nothing in this act creates a vested right in programming,
35 education, or other services.

36 (8) An individual reentry plan and offender assessment may not be
37 used as evidence of, and may not provide the basis for, liability
38 against the department, the state of Washington, or its employees.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The department of corrections shall
2 continue to establish community justice centers within the state for
3 the purpose of providing assistance to inmates who are reentering the
4 community.

5 (a) A minimum of six community justice centers shall be operational
6 by December 1, 2009. The six community justice centers include those
7 in operation at the time of the effective date of this act. The
8 community justice centers shall be located in the six counties where
9 the largest offender population resides who were released from
10 department of corrections custody. At least two centers shall be
11 located in eastern Washington.

12 (b) By December 1, 2011, the department of corrections shall
13 establish a minimum of three additional community justice centers
14 within the state. Community justice centers must comply with all
15 applicable zoning laws and regulations.

16 (c) Before siting or opening the community justice centers, the
17 department of corrections shall notify the city, if applicable, and the
18 county within which the community justice center is proposed. Such
19 notice shall occur at least sixty days prior to selecting a specific
20 location to provide the services listed in this section. The
21 department of corrections shall give due consideration to all comments
22 received in response to the notice of site selection.

23 (d) Nothing in this section exempts the department of corrections
24 from complying with all applicable zoning requirements for these
25 facilities.

26 (2) In addition to any other programs or services offered, the
27 community justice centers shall designate a community transition
28 coordinator who shall act to facilitate connections between the former
29 inmate and the community. The community transition coordinator shall
30 provide information to former inmates regarding services available to
31 them in the community regardless of the length of time since the
32 offender's release from the correctional facility. The community
33 transition coordinator shall, at a minimum, be responsible for the
34 following:

35 (a) Gathering information regarding services currently existing
36 within the community that are available to offenders including, but not
37 limited to, programs offered through the department of social and
38 health services, the department of health, the department of licensing,

1 housing authorities, local, community, and technical colleges, and
2 nonprofit entities. The information shall relate to services including
3 but not limited to housing, employment, education, vocational training,
4 parent education, financial literacy treatment for substance abuse,
5 mental health, anger management, and any other service or program that
6 will assist the former inmate to successfully transition into the
7 community;

8 (b) Coordinate access to the existing services with the community
9 providers and provide offenders with information regarding how to
10 access the various type of services and resources that are identified
11 in (a) of this subsection;

12 (c) Refer offenders to division of alcohol and substance abuse
13 treatment certified chemical dependency providers and mental health
14 division approved mental health providers to receive an evaluation and
15 services, if appropriate;

16 (d) Information or referrals provided to an offender from a
17 community transition coordinator do not create an entitlement to
18 services. Services will be provided based on eligibility and
19 availability.

20 (3) The department of corrections may enter into contracts to
21 provide educational programming to offenders.

22 **Sec. 5.** RCW 72.09.460 and 2004 c 167 s 5 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 (1) The legislature intends that all inmates be required to
25 participate in department-approved education programs, work programs,
26 or both, unless exempted under subsection (4) or (6) of this section.
27 Eligible inmates who refuse to participate in available education or
28 work programs available at no charge to the inmates shall lose
29 privileges according to the system established under RCW 72.09.130.
30 Eligible inmates who are required to contribute financially to an
31 education or work program and refuse to contribute shall be placed in
32 another work program. Refusal to contribute shall not result in a loss
33 of privileges. The legislature recognizes more inmates may agree to
34 participate in education and work programs than are available. The
35 department must make every effort to achieve maximum public benefit by
36 placing inmates in available and appropriate education and work
37 programs.

1 (2) The department shall provide access to a program of education
2 to all offenders who are under the age of eighteen and who have not met
3 high school graduation or general equivalency diploma requirements in
4 accordance with chapter 28A.193 RCW. The program of education
5 established by the department and education provider under RCW
6 28A.193.020 for offenders under the age of eighteen must provide each
7 offender a choice of curriculum that will assist the inmate in
8 achieving a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma. The
9 program of education may include but not be limited to basic education,
10 prevocational training, work ethic skills, conflict resolution
11 counseling, substance abuse intervention, and anger management
12 counseling. The curriculum may balance these and other rehabilitation,
13 work, and training components.

14 (3) The department shall, to the extent possible and considering
15 all available funds, prioritize its resources to meet the following
16 goals for inmates in the order listed:

17 (a) Achievement of basic academic skills through obtaining a high
18 school diploma or its equivalent and achievement of vocational skills
19 necessary for purposes of work programs and for an inmate to qualify
20 for work upon release;

21 (b) Additional work and education programs based on (~~assessments~~
22 ~~and placements under subsection (5) of this section~~) the offender's
23 individual reentry plan under section 2 of this act, including
24 parenting education or other programs designed to facilitate
25 reunification with the inmate's children and family; and

26 (c) Other work and education programs as appropriate.

27 (4) The department shall establish, by rule, objective medical
28 standards to determine when an inmate is physically or mentally unable
29 to participate in available education or work programs. When the
30 department determines an inmate is permanently unable to participate in
31 any available education or work program due to a medical condition, the
32 inmate is exempt from the requirement under subsection (1) of this
33 section. When the department determines an inmate is temporarily
34 unable to participate in an education or work program due to a medical
35 condition, the inmate is exempt from the requirement of subsection (1)
36 of this section for the period of time he or she is temporarily
37 disabled. The department shall periodically review the medical

1 condition of all (~~temporarily disabled~~) inmates with temporary
2 disabilities to ensure the earliest possible entry or reentry by
3 inmates into available programming.

4 (5) (~~The department shall establish, by rule, standards for~~
5 ~~participation in department approved education and work programs. The~~
6 ~~standards shall address the following areas:~~

7 ~~(a) Assessment. The department shall assess all inmates for their~~
8 ~~basic academic skill levels using a professionally accepted method of~~
9 ~~scoring reading, math, and language skills as grade level equivalents.~~
10 ~~The department shall determine an inmate's education history, work~~
11 ~~history, and vocational or work skills. The initial assessment shall~~
12 ~~be conducted, whenever possible, within the first thirty days of an~~
13 ~~inmate's entry into the correctional system, except that initial~~
14 ~~assessments are not required for inmates who are sentenced to life~~
15 ~~without the possibility of release, assigned to an intensive management~~
16 ~~unit within the first thirty days after entry into the correctional~~
17 ~~system, are returning to the correctional system within one year of a~~
18 ~~prior release, or whose physical or mental condition renders them~~
19 ~~unable to complete the assessment process. The department shall track~~
20 ~~and record changes in the basic academic skill levels of all inmates~~
21 ~~reflected in any testing or assessment performed as part of their~~
22 ~~education programming;~~

23 ~~(b) Placement. The department shall follow the policies set forth~~
24 ~~in subsection (1) of this section in establishing criteria for placing~~
25 ~~inmates in education and work programs. The department shall, to the~~
26 ~~extent possible, place all inmates whose composite grade level score~~
27 ~~for basic academic skills is below the eighth grade level in a combined~~
28 ~~education and work program. The placement criteria shall include at~~
29 ~~least the following factors:~~

30 ~~(i) An inmate's release date and custody level.))~~ In addition to
31 the policies set forth in this section, the department shall consider
32 the following factors in establishing criteria for placing inmates in
33 education and work programs.

34 (a) An inmate shall not be precluded from participating in an
35 education or work program solely on the basis of his or her release
36 date(~~, except that inmates with a release date of more than one~~
37 ~~hundred twenty months in the future shall not comprise more than ten~~

1 ~~percent of inmates participating in a new class I correctional industry~~
2 ~~not in existence on June 10, 2004));~~
3 ~~((i))~~ (b) An inmate's education history and basic academic
4 skills;
5 ~~((iii))~~ (c) An inmate's work history and vocational or work
6 skills;
7 ~~((iv))~~ (d) An inmate's physical ability to participate in the
8 program;
9 (e) An inmate's economic circumstances, including but not limited
10 to an inmate's family support obligations; and
11 ~~((v))~~ (f) Where applicable, an inmate's prior performance in
12 department-approved education or work programs(~~(+)~~).
13 ~~((c) Performance and goals.)~~ (i) The department shall establish,
14 and periodically review, inmate behavior standards and program goals
15 for all education and work programs. Inmates shall be notified of
16 applicable behavior standards and program goals prior to placement in
17 an education or work program and shall be removed from the education or
18 work program if they consistently fail to meet the standards or
19 goals(~~(+)~~).
20 ~~((d) Financial responsibility. (i))~~ (ii) Except as provided in
21 (f)(iii) of this subsection, so long as the educational or vocational
22 program meets the offender's needs as identified in the offender's
23 individual reentry plan, the department shall pay for educational
24 programs, vocational training, and associate degree programs, including
25 but not limited to books, materials, supplies, and postage costs
26 related to correspondence courses, to the extent possible.
27 (iii) The department shall establish ~~((a formula by which inmates,~~
28 ~~based on their ability to pay, shall))~~ policies requiring an offender
29 to pay all or a portion of the costs ((or)) and tuition ((of certain
30 programs. Inmates shall, based on the formula, pay a portion of the
31 costs or tuition of)) for participation in:
32 (A) ~~((Second and subsequent vocational programs associated with an~~
33 ~~inmate's work programs; and~~
34 ~~(B) An associate of arts or))~~ A baccalaureate degree program ~~((when~~
35 ~~placement in a degree program is the result of a placement made under~~
36 ~~this subsection));~~
37 ~~((ii) Inmates shall pay all costs and tuition for participation~~
38 ~~in;~~

1 ~~(A))~~ (B) Any postsecondary academic degree program ((which is
2 entered independently of a placement decision made under this
3 subsection)) if the program is not included in the offender's
4 individual reentry plan; and

5 ~~((B) Second and subsequent vocational programs not associated with~~
6 ~~an inmate's work program.~~

7 ~~Enrollment in any program specified in (d)(ii) of this subsection~~
8 ~~shall only be allowed by correspondence or if there is an opening in an~~
9 ~~education or work program at the institution where an inmate is~~
10 ~~incarcerated and no other inmate who is placed in a program under this~~
11 ~~subsection will be displaced; and~~

12 ~~(e))~~ (C) Any educational program or vocational training if the
13 offender has previously abandoned course work related to education or
14 vocational training without a satisfactory explanation, and which is
15 not required under the offender's individual reentry plan.

16 (6) Notwithstanding any other provision in this section, an inmate
17 sentenced to life without the possibility of release, or offenders who
18 are found by the United States attorney general to be subject to a
19 deportation detainer or order or becomes subject to a deportation
20 order:

21 ~~((i))~~ (a) Shall not be required to participate in education
22 programming; ((and

23 ~~(ii))~~ (b) May receive not more than one postsecondary academic
24 degree in a program offered by the department or its contracted
25 providers((

26 ~~If an inmate sentenced to life without the possibility of release~~
27 ~~requires)), unless the offender pays all costs and tuition associated~~
28 ~~with the program; and~~

29 (c) May participate in prevocational or vocational training for a
30 work program((, he or she may participate in the training subject to
31 this section)).

32 ~~((6) The department shall coordinate education and work programs~~
33 ~~among its institutions, to the greatest extent possible, to facilitate~~
34 ~~continuity of programming among inmates transferred between~~
35 ~~institutions.))~~

36 (7) Before transferring an inmate enrolled in a program, the
37 department shall consider the effect the transfer will have on the

1 inmate's ability to continue or complete a program. This subsection
2 shall not be used to delay or prohibit a transfer necessary for
3 legitimate safety or security concerns.

4 ~~((7) Before construction of a new correctional institution or
5 expansion of an existing correctional institution, the department shall
6 adopt a plan demonstrating how cable, closed circuit, and satellite
7 television will be used for education and training purposes in the
8 institution. The plan shall specify how the use of television in the
9 education and training programs will improve inmates' preparedness for
10 available work programs and job opportunities for which inmates may
11 qualify upon release.~~

12 ~~(8) The department shall adopt a plan to reduce the per pupil cost
13 of instruction by, among other methods, increasing the use of volunteer
14 instructors and implementing technological efficiencies. The plan
15 shall be adopted by December 1996 and shall be transmitted to the
16 legislature upon adoption. The department shall, in adoption of the
17 plan, consider distance learning, satellite instruction, video tape
18 usage, computer aided instruction, and flexible scheduling of offender
19 instruction.~~

20 ~~(9) Following completion of the review required by section 27(3),
21 chapter 19, Laws of 1995 1st sp. sess. the department shall take all
22 necessary steps to assure the vocation and education programs are
23 relevant to work programs and skills necessary to enhance the
24 employability of inmates upon release.))~~

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The department of corrections and the
26 state board for community and technical colleges shall investigate and
27 review methods to optimize educational and vocational programming
28 opportunities to meet the needs of each offender as identified in his
29 or her individual reentry plan both while an offender is incarcerated
30 and postrelease. Faculty in both incarceration and postincarceration
31 educational programs shall be included in the review process and should
32 be allowed job release time to participate in the review.

33 (2) In conducting its review, the department and state board shall
34 consider and make recommendations regarding:

35 (a) Technological advances which could serve to expand educational
36 programs and vocational training including, but not limited to,

1 distance learning, satellite instruction, videotape usage, computer
2 aided instruction, and flexible scheduling;

3 (b) Methods to ensure educational programs and vocational training
4 are relevant to work programs and skills necessary to enhance the
5 employability of offenders upon release;

6 (c) Long-term methods for maintaining channels of communication
7 between the department, state board administration, educators, and
8 students; and

9 (d) Methods for ensuring that security measures remain intact
10 regarding an offender's use of the internet.

11 (3) The department and state board shall report to the governor and
12 the legislature on the investigation and recommendations required in
13 subsections (1) and (2) of this section no later than November 15,
14 2007.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** On or before October 1, 2007, the department
16 of corrections and the department of licensing shall enter into an
17 agreement establishing expedited procedures to assist offenders in
18 obtaining a driver's license or identification card upon their release
19 from a department of corrections' institution.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) A joint legislative task force on
21 reentry barriers for previously incarcerated individuals is established
22 for the purpose of providing oversight into the implementation of this
23 act and develop recommendations to assist the reentry of inmates into
24 the community. Membership of the task force shall be as provided in
25 this subsection.

26 (a) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from each
27 of the two largest caucuses of the senate, with at least one member
28 being a member of the senate human services and corrections committee;

29 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one
30 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
31 representatives, with at least one member being a member of the house
32 public safety and emergency preparedness committee;

33 (c) The governor shall appoint the following members:

34 (i) The attorney general or the attorney general's designee;

35 (ii) The secretary of the department of corrections or the
36 secretary's designee;

1 (iii) The commissioner of the employment security department or the
2 commissioner's designee;

3 (iv) The director of the department of licensing or the director's
4 designee;

5 (d) In addition, the joint legislative task force, where feasible,
6 may consult with individuals representing the following:

7 (i) State agencies that issue occupational licenses;

8 (ii) Counties;

9 (iii) Cities;

10 (iv) Crime victims;

11 (v) Faculty members who educate incarcerated offenders;

12 (vi) Faculty members who educate released offenders;

13 (vii) Community corrections officers;

14 (viii) Labor organizations representing correctional officers who
15 work in adult correctional facilities;

16 (ix) Local law enforcement;

17 (x) County law enforcement;

18 (xi) Ex-offenders;

19 (xii) Faith-based organizations that provide outreach or services
20 to offenders;

21 (xiii) Washington businesses;

22 (xiv) Organizations providing legal representation to offenders;

23 and

24 (xv) Nonprofit organizations providing workforce training to
25 released offenders.

26 (2) The joint legislative task force shall be cochaired by a
27 legislative member from the senate and a legislative member from the
28 house of representatives, as chosen by the task force.

29 (3) The joint legislative task force shall review and make
30 recommendations to the legislature regarding:

31 (a) The use of the individual reentry plans by the department of
32 corrections;

33 (b) Access to educational opportunities for inmates in the custody
34 of the department of corrections and the effectiveness of the
35 department in directing inmates to appropriate educational programs;

36 (c) The use of educational programs in the individual reentry
37 plans;

1 (d) The creation and utilization of community justice centers as
2 resource centers for persons released from the custody of the
3 department of corrections;

4 (e) Changes to occupational licensing laws and policies to
5 encourage employment of individuals with criminal histories while
6 ensuring the safety of the public;

7 (f) Federal and state statutory barriers that prevent individuals
8 with criminal histories from obtaining employment in public or
9 government contracting jobs;

10 (g) Other barriers that may prevent individuals with criminal
11 histories from obtaining viable employment;

12 (h) Other barriers to successful reintegration into the community;
13 and

14 (i) Other issues related to the implementation of this act deemed
15 appropriate by the joint legislative task force.

16 (4) The joint legislative task force may, where feasible, consult
17 with individuals from the public and private sector in carrying out its
18 duties under this section.

19 (5) The joint legislative task force shall develop criteria to
20 recommend to the department of corrections for eligibility of inmates
21 into the program under section 10 of this act.

22 (6) The joint legislative task force shall develop criteria to
23 recommend to the department of community, trade, and economic
24 development for eligibility of inmates into the program under section
25 11 of this act.

26 (7)(a) The joint legislative task force shall use legislative
27 facilities, and staff support shall be provided by senate committee
28 services, the house of representatives office of program research, and
29 the Washington state institute for public policy. The department of
30 corrections, department of licensing, and employment security
31 department shall cooperate with the joint legislative task force, and
32 shall provide information as the task force reasonably requests.

33 (b) Nonlegislative members of the joint legislative task force
34 shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for travel
35 expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

36 (c) Legislative members of the joint legislative task force shall
37 be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120.

1 (d) The expenses of the joint legislative task force shall be paid
2 jointly by the senate and the house of representatives.

3 (8) The joint legislative task force shall present a report of its
4 findings and recommendations to the governor and the appropriate
5 committees of the legislature, including any proposed legislation, by
6 November 15, 2008.

7 (9) This section expires December 15, 2008.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 72.04A RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 The department shall develop a plan to reduce the supervision
11 caseload of community corrections officers by December 1, 2012. The
12 department shall utilize the workload study conducted by the department
13 to develop the plan. Prior to 2012, the department shall hire
14 additional community corrections officers to the extent funding is
15 provided in the operating budget.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 72.09 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 (1) The department of corrections shall enter into agreements to
19 provide short-term housing assistance to offenders who are reentering
20 the community and are in need of temporary housing.

21 (2) The department may develop further criteria in rule to
22 determine who will qualify for housing assistance and shall utilize the
23 recommendations provided by the joint legislative task force under
24 section 8 of this act in the development of the criteria.

25 (3) Housing assistance shall not be provided in excess of one
26 hundred twenty days for each offender.

27 (4) The state, the department, and its employees are not liable for
28 civil damages arising from the conduct of an offender due to the
29 placement of an offender in short-term housing or the provision of
30 housing assistance.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** A new section is added to chapter 43.63A
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 (1)(a) The department of community, trade, and economic development
34 may enter into agreements to provide transitional housing assistance to
35 offenders who are reentering the community and are in need of

1 transitional housing, including offenders who have utilized the
2 temporary housing through the department of corrections under section
3 10 of this act.

4 (b) The department of community, trade, and economic development
5 shall give preference for the housing contracts to those programs that
6 provide an educational component in their housing, particularly
7 education relating to developing independent living skills.

8 (2) The department may develop criteria in rule to determine who
9 will qualify for housing assistance and shall utilize the
10 recommendations provided by the joint legislative task force under
11 section 8 of this act in the development of the criteria.

12 (3) The state, the department, and its employees are not liable for
13 civil damages arising from the conduct of an offender due to the
14 placement of an offender in short-term housing or the provision of
15 housing assistance.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** The sum of two million dollars, or as much
17 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general fund for
18 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and the sum of two million
19 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from
20 the general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, to the
21 department of social and health services for the purposes of providing
22 chemical dependency and mental health services to offenders who are
23 reentering the community after having been incarcerated in a department
24 of corrections facility and who are not otherwise eligible for chemical
25 dependency or mental health services under existing eligibility
26 criteria related to those services. Offenders may access the services
27 after having been referred by a community transition coordinator under
28 section 3 of this act to a division of alcohol and substance abuse
29 certified chemical dependency treatment provider or a regional support
30 network. The funds provided in this appropriation shall supplement,
31 and not supplant, existing local, state, or federal funding.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The sum of one million dollars, or as much
33 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general fund for
34 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and the sum of one million
35 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from
36 the general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, to the

1 department of corrections for the purposes of hiring additional
2 community corrections officers to supervise offenders who are
3 reentering the community after having been incarcerated in a department
4 of corrections facility.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** The sum of three million eight hundred
6 fifty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
7 appropriated from the general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30,
8 2008, and the sum of three million eight hundred fifty thousand
9 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from
10 the general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, to the
11 department of corrections for the purposes of section 10 of this act.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** The sum of three million eight hundred
13 fifty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
14 appropriated from the general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30,
15 2008, and the sum of three million eight hundred fifty thousand
16 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from
17 the general fund for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, to the
18 department of community, trade, and economic development for the
19 purposes of section 11 of this act.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** Sections 1 through 3 and 8 of this act
21 constitute a new chapter in Title 72 RCW.

--- END ---