
HOUSE BILL 2593

State of Washington 62nd Legislature 2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Appleton and Santos

Read first time 01/18/12. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to the provision of legal services for persons
2 under the supervision of the department of social and health services
3 or corrections; adding a new section to chapter 72.01 RCW; and
4 repealing RCW 72.09.190.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 72.01 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) It is the intent of the legislature that reasonable legal
9 services be provided to persons committed to any institution under the
10 supervision of the department of social and health services or
11 corrections. The department shall contract with persons or
12 organizations to provide legal services. The secretary shall adopt
13 procedures designed to minimize any conflict of interest, or appearance
14 thereof, in respect to the provision of legal services and the
15 department's administration of such contracts.

16 (2) Persons who contract to provide legal services are expressly
17 forbidden to solicit plaintiffs or promote litigation that has not been
18 pursued initially by a person entitled to such services under this
19 section.

1 (3) Persons who contract to provide legal services shall exhaust
2 all informal means of resolving a legal complaint or dispute prior to
3 the filing of any court proceeding.

4 (4) Nothing in this section forbids the secretary to supplement
5 contracted legal services with any of the following: (a) Law
6 libraries; (b) law student interns; and (c) volunteer attorneys.

7 (5) The total due a contractor as compensation, fees, or
8 reimbursement under the terms of the contract shall be reduced by the
9 total of any other compensation, fees, or reimbursement received by or
10 due the contractor for the performance of any legal service to persons
11 committed to an institution under the supervision of the department
12 during the contract period. Any amount received by a contractor under
13 contract that is not due under this section shall be immediately
14 returned by the contractor.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** RCW 72.09.190 (Legal services for inmates)
16 and 1981 c 136 s 23 are each repealed.

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