
Public Safety Committee

HB 1837

Brief Description: Allowing residents of total confinement facilities and secure community transition facilities to engage in therapeutic occupational assignments within the confines of McNeil Island.

Sponsors: Representatives Hope, Goodman, Roberts, Hayes, Appleton and Ryu; by request of Department of Social and Health Services.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows residents of the Special Commitment Center or a secure community transitions facility to participate in work assignments on McNeil Island, outside the secure facilities.

Hearing Date: 2/19/13

Staff: Sarah Koster (786-7303).

Background:

"Secure facility" means a residential facility for persons civilly confined as sexually violent predators or awaiting trial for civil commitment as sexually violent predators that includes security measures sufficient to protect the community. Such facilities include total confinement facilities, secure community transition facilities, and any residence used as a court-ordered placement.

"Secure community transition facility" means a residential facility for persons civilly committed and conditionally released to a less restrictive alternative as sexually violent predators. A secure community transition facility has supervision and security, and either provides or ensures the provision of sex offender treatment services.

The Department of Social and Health Services operates one total confinement facility, the Special Commitment Center, which currently houses 274 residents and is located on McNeil

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Island, as well as two secure community transitions facilities: the Pierce County Secure Community Transition Facility, which is located on McNeil Island and has a capacity of 24, and the King County Secure Community Transition Facility, which is located in Seattle and has a capacity of six.

Summary of Bill:

Residents of the Special Commitment Center on McNeil Island or one of the secure community transition facilities may engage in therapeutic occupational assignments outside of their facilities, within the confines of McNeil Island. The Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services shall set conditions as necessary to ensure the safety of the community, including the appropriate direct staffing ratio for such occupational assignments.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.