
SENATE BILL 6390

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Darneille and Chase

Read first time 01/23/14. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to forming the juvenile sentencing task force to
2 review and make recommendations regarding juvenile sentencing matters;
3 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that recent research
6 shows that the adolescent brain continues to develop well into the
7 twenties and does not fully mature until an adolescent reaches the age
8 of twenty-five. Until reaching full brain development, adolescents
9 lack maturity and have an underdeveloped sense of responsibility that
10 often results in impetuous and ill-considered actions and decisions.
11 Adolescents are much more likely to act on impulse, without considering
12 the consequences of their actions, and they are generally more
13 receptive and responsive to intervention and rehabilitation. Recent
14 research from the Washington state institute for public policy also
15 concludes that juvenile offenders who are transferred to adult
16 jurisdiction are more likely to reoffend than if they remained under
17 the juvenile court.

18 Juvenile justice provisions that transfer a juvenile offender to
19 adult jurisdiction and often result in lengthy sentences were put into

1 place before this research was available. In light of this new
2 research, the legislature believes it is appropriate to conduct a
3 review of the intersection between the adult and juvenile justice
4 systems.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The legislature shall convene a task
6 force to examine juvenile sentencing reform, with the following voting
7 members:

8 (a) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from each
9 of the two largest caucuses of the senate;

10 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one
11 member from each of the two largest caucuses in the house of
12 representatives;

13 (c) A representative from the governor's office;

14 (d) The assistant secretary of the department of social and health
15 services overseeing the juvenile justice and rehabilitation
16 administration or his or her designee;

17 (e) The secretary of the department of corrections or his or her
18 designee;

19 (f) A superior court judge from the superior court judges
20 association family and juvenile law subcommittee, who is familiar with
21 cases involving the transfer of youth to the adult criminal justice
22 system and sentencing of youth in the adult criminal justice system;

23 (g) A judicial officer with experience in conducting decline
24 hearings; and

25 (h) The legislative leaders of the two largest political parties in
26 each house of the legislature shall jointly appoint the following
27 members:

28 (i) A representative of the Washington association of prosecuting
29 attorneys;

30 (ii) A representative of the Washington association of criminal
31 defense lawyers or the Washington defender association;

32 (iii) A child psychologist currently engaged in research on
33 juvenile brain development;

34 (iv) A mental health provider who works with juveniles involved in
35 the juvenile justice system;

36 (v) An individual with experience as a youth in the adult criminal
37 justice system;

1 (vi) A representative from the juvenile court administrator's
2 association;

3 (vii) A representative from law enforcement who works with
4 juveniles;

5 (viii) A representative from a public interest law firm that
6 represents juveniles;

7 (ix) A representative of the governor's commission on African-
8 American affairs;

9 (x) A representative from the center for children and youth
10 justice; and

11 (xi) A representative from the partnership council on juvenile
12 justice.

13 (2) The task force shall choose two cochairs from among its
14 legislative members.

15 (3) The task force shall undertake a thorough review of juvenile
16 sentencing as it relates to the intersection of the adult and juvenile
17 justice systems and make recommendations for reform that promote
18 improved outcomes for youth, public safety, and taxpayer resources.
19 The review shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

20 (a) Discretionary hearings to determine whether the juvenile court
21 should decline jurisdiction;

22 (b) Mandatory hearings to determine whether the juvenile court
23 should decline jurisdiction;

24 (c) The automatic transfer of a juvenile to adult jurisdiction;

25 (d) Sentencing standards, term lengths, sentencing enhancements,
26 and stacking provisions that apply once a juvenile is transferred to
27 adult jurisdiction;

28 (e) Rehabilitative resources that are available to juveniles who
29 have been transferred to adult jurisdiction.

30 (4) Staff support for the task force must be provided by the senate
31 committee services and the house of representatives office of program
32 research.

33 (5) Legislative members of the task force may be reimbursed for
34 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
35 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are
36 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW
37 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

1 (6) The expenses of the task force shall be paid jointly by the
2 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
3 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
4 and the house executive rules committee, or their successor committees.

5 (7) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
6 the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by
7 December 1, 2014.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires June 1, 2015.

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