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## Public Safety Committee

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### HB 2791

**Brief Description:** Creating the Washington statewide reentry council.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Pettigrew, Goodman, Moscoso, Senn, Frame, Stanford, Santos and Walkinshaw.

<p><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creates the Washington Statewide Reentry Council.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 1/26/16

**Staff:** Kelly Leonard (786-7147).

**Background:**

*Department of Commerce.* The Department of Commerce (Department) is an executive branch agency responsible for enhancing and promoting sustainable community and economic vitality in Washington. Among its other statutory duties, the Department administers a diverse portfolio of programs as well as several state boards and commissions.

*Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee.* The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) is the Legislature's performance auditor. The JLARC conducts performance audits, program evaluations, sunset reviews, and other analyses at the direction of the Legislature.

*Washington State Institute for Public Policy.* The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) carries out non-partisan research at the direction of the Legislature. Fiscal and administrative services for the WSIPP are provided by The Evergreen State College.

**Summary of Bill:**

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

The Washington Statewide Reentry Council (Council) is created for the purpose of promoting successful reentry of offenders after incarceration. The Council is located within the Department of Commerce (Department).

*Membership.* The Council is comprised of 13 members appointed by the Governor with representatives of the following:

- the Department of Corrections;
- a statewide organization representing law enforcement interests;
- a statewide organization representing the interests of crime victims;
- a statewide organization representing prosecutors;
- a statewide organization representing public defenders;
- a statewide or local organization representing businesses and employers;
- housing providers;
- faith-based organizations or communities;
- two persons with experience reentering the community after incarceration; and
- two other community leaders.

When making appointments, the Governor must consider certain factors contained in the bill. One membership position is reserved for a person with a background in tribal affairs. Initial appointees serve staggered terms of four, three, and two years. Subsequent appointments are for two-year terms. The Council must elect co-chairs from among its membership.

*Executive Director.* The Council must select an executive director to administrate the business of the Council. Employment of the executive director is for a term of three years, which may be extended by the Council. The executive director is located in and paid by the Department.

*Powers and Responsibilities.* The Council is empowered to:

- advise the Legislature and the Governor on issues relating to reentry and reintegration of offenders;
- review, study, and make policy and funding recommendations on issues directly and indirectly related to reentry and reintegration of offenders in Washington, including, but not limited to: correctional programming and other issues in state and local correctional facilities; housing; employment; education; treatment; and other issues contributing to recidivism;
- apply for, receive, use, and leverage public and private grants as well as specifically appropriated funds to establish, manage, and promote initiatives and programs related to successful reentry and reintegration of offenders;
- to contract for services in order to carry out initiatives and programs;
- create committees and subcommittees; and
- create and consult with advisory groups comprised of non-members.

The Council must solicit input and participation from stakeholders interested in reducing recidivism, promoting public safety, and improving community conditions for people reentering the community from incarceration. The Council must consult: the two largest caucuses in the House of Representatives; the two largest caucuses in the Senate; the Governor; local governments; educators; mental health and substance abuse providers; behavioral health organizations; managed care organizations; city and county jails; the Department of Corrections;

specialty courts; persons with expertise in evidence-based and research-based reentry practices; and persons with criminal histories and their families.

The Council must meet at least four times each year. The Council must submit to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature a preliminary report no later than December 1, 2016, and a full report every two years thereafter.

*Performance Audit.* The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) must conduct a performance audit of the Council every six years, with the first audit to be completed by November 1, 2022.

*Study.* The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) must conduct a meta-analysis on the effectiveness of programs aimed at assisting offenders with reentering the community after incarceration. The study must include a review and update of the literature on reentry programs in Washington and across the country. The WSIPP must report on the types of programs demonstrated to be effective in reducing recidivism among the general offender population. The WSIPP must report results to Governor, appropriate committees of the Legislature, and Council no later than June 1, 2017.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 19, 2016.

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