
HOUSE BILL 2558

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Goodman and Klippert

Read first time 01/14/16. Referred to Committee on Public Safety.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the joint legislative task force
2 on jail standards; adding a new section to chapter 70.48 RCW; and
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 70.48
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) A joint legislative task force on jail standards is
8 established, with members as provided in this subsection.

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

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

14 (c) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
15 representatives jointly shall appoint eleven members representing the
16 interests of: Prosecutors; defense attorneys; law enforcement;
17 counties; cities; judicial administration; superior courts; district
18 and municipal courts; medical and mental health service providers;
19 and other entities involved with or interested in the operation of
20 local jails.

1 (2) The legislative membership shall convene the initial meeting
2 of the task force. The task force shall choose its chair from among
3 its legislative membership.

4 (3) Staff support for the task force must be provided by the
5 senate committee services and the house office of program research.

6 (4) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for
7 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
8 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they
9 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,
10 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
11 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

12 (5) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the
13 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
14 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee
15 and the house executive rules committee, or their successor
16 committees.

17 (6) The task force shall review the following issues:

18 (a) The adequacy of standards adopted and used by jails
19 including, but not limited to, standards for conditions and
20 operations, inspections, enforcement, and oversight;

21 (b) The current process used by cities and counties to develop
22 standards;

23 (c) The general condition of jails including, but not limited to,
24 safety and physical conditions, health and welfare, and activities
25 and programming, and whether those conditions meet adopted standards;

26 (d) Inmates' access or lack thereof to medical, mental health,
27 and substance abuse treatment in jails;

28 (e) The impact of fluctuating jail populations on jail
29 conditions;

30 (f) The impact of fluctuating jail costs on jail conditions;

31 (g) The impact, if any, of competition between jails on jail
32 conditions;

33 (h) Whether statewide jail standards, oversight, or other policy
34 changes are necessary to ensure jail conditions meet constitutional
35 standards and include adequate safety and welfare safeguards for
36 incarcerated persons; and

37 (i) Other issues the task force deems relevant to the conditions
38 of jails.

39 (7) The task force shall consult with organizations and entities
40 with interest or experience in jail standards and operations

1 including, but not limited to, treatment providers, victims'
2 advocates, inmate advocates, organizations representing jail
3 employees and officers, and other community organizations.

4 (8) The task force shall report findings and recommendations to
5 the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by
6 December 1, 2018.

7 (9) This section expires July 1, 2019.

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