

FINAL BILL REPORT

SHB 1626

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Changing the date in which community impact statements are provided to the department of corrections.

Sponsors: House Committee on Public Safety (originally sponsored by Representatives Blake and J. Walsh).

House Committee on Public Safety
Senate Committee on Law & Justice

Background:

Prior to an offender being released from confinement to community custody, the Department of Corrections (DOC) must approve the offender's release plan. The release plan must include a proposed residence and living arrangements. The DOC may deny the offender's release plan if it determines that the plan places the community or specific victims at risk, if it violates the terms of community custody, or if it places the offender at risk to reoffend or violate the conditions of community custody.

The DOC may provide rental vouchers to the offender for a period of up to three months if the rental vouchers will result in an approved release plan. The DOC must maintain a list of approved housing providers for the voucher program. If more than two voucher recipients will be residing per dwelling unit, their rental vouchers may only be paid to a housing provider on the list.

When selecting housing providers, the DOC must consider the compatibility of the housing with the surrounding neighborhood and the underlying zoning, and must limit the concentration of housing providers who provide housing to sex offenders in a single neighborhood or area.

Whenever a new housing provider requests to be added to the list of approved housing providers, the DOC must give notice to the applicable local government. A local government may create a community impact statement, which may include the number and location of other special needs housing in the neighborhood, and a review of services and supports in the area to assist offenders in his or her transition. If the local government provides a community

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impact statement to the DOC within 10 business days, the DOC must consider the community impact statement in determining whether to add the housing provider to the list.

Summary:

The amount of time a local government has to submit a community impact statement is increased to 25 business days.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	96	0
Senate	47	0

Effective: July 23, 2017