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SENATE BILL 5077

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Angel, Darneille, Padden, Wilson, Rolfes, Keiser, Mullet, Wellman, Conway, and Saldaña

Read first time 01/12/17. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to allowing the department of corrections to  
2 provide temporary housing assistance to individuals being released  
3 from the Washington corrections center for women; amending RCW  
4 72.02.100; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 72.02.100 and 2012 c 117 s 455 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (1) Any person serving a sentence for a term of confinement in a  
9 state correctional facility for convicted felons, pursuant to court  
10 commitment, who is thereafter released upon an order of parole of the  
11 indeterminate sentence review board, or who is discharged from  
12 custody upon expiration of sentence, or who is ordered discharged  
13 from custody by a court of appropriate jurisdiction, shall be  
14 entitled to retain his or her earnings from labor or employment while  
15 in confinement and shall be supplied by the superintendent of the  
16 state correctional facility with suitable and presentable clothing,  
17 the sum of forty dollars for subsistence, and transportation by the  
18 least expensive method of public transportation not to exceed the  
19 cost of one hundred dollars to his or her place of residence or the  
20 place designated in his or her parole plan, or to the place from  
21 which committed if such person is being discharged on expiration of

1 sentence, or discharged from custody by a court of appropriate  
2 jurisdiction: PROVIDED, That up to sixty additional dollars may be  
3 made available to the parolee for necessary personal and living  
4 expenses upon application to and approval by such person's community  
5 corrections officer. If in the opinion of the superintendent suitable  
6 arrangements have been made to provide the person to be released with  
7 suitable clothing and/or the expenses of transportation, the  
8 superintendent may consent to such arrangement. If the superintendent  
9 has reasonable cause to believe that the person to be released has  
10 ample funds, with the exception of earnings from labor or employment  
11 while in confinement, to assume the expenses of clothing,  
12 transportation, or the expenses for which payments made pursuant to  
13 (~~RCW 72.02.100~~) this section or RCW 72.02.110 or any one or more of  
14 such expenses, the person released shall be required to assume such  
15 expenses.

16 (2) Within existing resources, the department of corrections may  
17 provide temporary housing assistance for a person being released from  
18 the Washington corrections center for women through the use of rental  
19 vouchers, for a period not to exceed three months, if such assistance  
20 will support the person's release into the community. The  
21 department's authority to provide vouchers under this section is  
22 independent of its authority under RCW 9.94A.729.

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. (1) By November 1, 2020, and in compliance  
24 with RCW 43.01.036, the department of corrections must submit a  
25 report to the legislature detailing, to the extent possible:

26 (a) The number of individuals provided with housing assistance  
27 pursuant to RCW 72.02.100(2);

28 (b) The ability of the individual to maintain housing at the  
29 conclusion of the rental voucher period; and

30 (c) The recidivism rate of those provided with housing  
31 assistance.

32 (2) This section expires December 31, 2020.

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