

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5815

As of February 19, 2019

Title: An act relating to individuals placed in minimum security status by the department of children, youth, and families.

Brief Description: Concerning individuals placed in minimum security status by the department of children, youth, and families.

Sponsors: Senators Nguyen, Darneille, Wilson, C., Saldaña, Das, Keiser and Kuderer.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation: 2/13/19.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows a juvenile in minimum security custody of Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) to be away from a community facility for up to 16 hours a day to participate in approved work, educational, community restitution, or treatment programs.
- Excludes unlawful use or possession of alcohol or a controlled substance in a community facility from a list of serious infractions requiring mandatory return to a JR institution.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, REENTRY & REHABILITATION

Staff: Kevin Black (786-7747)

Background: Juvenile Rehabilitation. JR is a division of the Department of Social and Health Services which is scheduled to transfer to the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) on July 1, 2019. JR operates three juvenile institutions for adjudicated juveniles sentenced to serve more than 30 days of confinement. Echo Glen Children's Center in Snoqualmie serves younger male offenders and female offenders. Green Hill School in Chehalis serves older male offenders. Naselle Youth Camp in Naselle provides services to male offenders and offers a forestry work program.

Community Facilities. JR operates eight community facilities for minimum security juvenile offenders who have transferred after serving time in an institution. These facilities provide

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group and educational programming and allow juveniles to have approved leave for up to 12 hours per day to attend school or participate in approved work, educational, community restitution, or treatment programs. Certain activities in a community facility are defined under statute as serious infractions requiring JR to remove the juvenile from the community facility and return them to an institution until a new risk assessment has been completed and JR reasonably believes the juvenile can adhere to the conditions set by JR. Serious infractions must include any criminal law violation, unlawful use or possession of a controlled substance, or unlawful use or possession of an alcoholic beverage.

Summary of Bill: A juvenile placed in minimum security by JR may be in the community for up to 16 hours a day to participate in approved work, educational, community restitution, or treatment programs.

Unlawful use or possession of a controlled substance or an alcoholic beverage while in a community facility are excluded from a list of serious infractions requiring mandatory return to an institution.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This allows youth in our system to be able to spend more time out in the community working and even in sports activities without having the risk of being returned to an institution.

OTHER: We ask you to consider an amendment that would stop JR from choosing to do nothing in response to alcohol and controlled substance violations. A study shows that controlled substance violations are a consistent predictor of more serious offenses at a later date. We want rules that are adopted to be consistent with evidence-based practices on how to deal with alcohol and substance abuse violations.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Joe Nguyen, Prime Sponsor.

OTHER: James McMahan, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.