

---

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2084**

---

**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** House Community Safety, Justice, & Reentry (originally sponsored by Representatives Fosse, Low, Berry, Leavitt, Simmons, Reed, Ormsby, Street, Bronoske, Ryu, Chapman, Wylie, Doglio, Cortes, Paul, Reeves, and Davis)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/24.

1       AN ACT Relating to establishing an oversight committee to improve  
2 construction-related training and pathways to state registered  
3 apprenticeships in state correctional facilities; adding a new  
4 section to chapter 43.06C RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that supporting and  
7 preparing incarcerated persons to successfully reenter the community  
8 is critical to recognizing the dignity of all incarcerated persons,  
9 while also reducing recidivism and expanding the state's trained and  
10 skilled workforce. To that end, the legislature intends to improve  
11 the quality and availability of construction-related training  
12 programs in state correctional facilities in order to strengthen  
13 pathways for incarcerated persons to advance from those programs to  
14 state registered apprenticeship programs upon reentering the  
15 community. These improvements will expand access to living wage jobs  
16 for formerly incarcerated persons, increase the construction  
17 workforce, and support federal and state investments in  
18 transportation infrastructure and clean energy. Therefore, the  
19 legislature hereby directs the office of the corrections ombuds to  
20 convene an oversight committee for the purpose of facilitating  
21 critical changes to state correctional programming. The oversight

1 committee will evaluate, strengthen, and expand construction-related  
2 training programs, with a focus on state recognized apprenticeship  
3 preparation programs, and transition planning with the goal of  
4 improving pathways to the enrollment of formerly incarcerated persons  
5 in state registered apprenticeship programs.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.06C  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
9 specific purpose, the ombuds shall convene an oversight committee for  
10 the purposes of expanding access to construction-related training  
11 programs in state correctional facilities, with a focus on state  
12 recognized apprenticeship preparation programs, and strengthening  
13 pathways for incarcerated persons to advance from those programs to  
14 state registered apprenticeship programs upon reentering the  
15 community. The ombuds may enter into contracts for services as may be  
16 necessary to comply with the requirements of this section.

17 (2) (a) The ombuds shall appoint members of the oversight  
18 committee, including representatives of the following:

19 (i) The department, including staff involved with construction-  
20 related training programs and reentry planning, and community  
21 corrections officers;

22 (ii) Correctional industries;

23 (iii) The apprenticeship division of the department of labor and  
24 industries;

25 (iv) The state board for community and technical colleges,  
26 including representatives from the basic education division and  
27 student support programs;

28 (v) The Washington state building and construction trades  
29 council;

30 (vi) Registered apprenticeship programs in the construction  
31 trades, and providers of apprenticeship preparation programs;

32 (vii) College corrections navigators and apprenticeship  
33 navigators;

34 (viii) The juvenile rehabilitation division and community  
35 services office of the department of children, youth, and families;

36 (ix) The ombuds;

37 (x) The Washington statewide reentry council; and

1 (xi) Other agencies, boards, or entities that the ombuds has  
2 identified as having a significant interest in the work of the  
3 oversight committee.

4 (b) The ombuds shall also appoint two persons with lived  
5 experience to serve as members of the oversight committee.

6 (c) Except as provided under RCW 43.03.220, the members of the  
7 oversight committee must serve without compensation, but are entitled  
8 to be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and  
9 43.03.060.

10 (3) The oversight committee shall:

11 (a) Develop, maintain, and publish an inventory of all  
12 construction-related training programs in correctional facilities  
13 including, but not limited to, the following information for each  
14 program:

15 (i) Location, capacity, criteria for admission, and current  
16 enrollment;

17 (ii) State recognized apprenticeship preparation status or  
18 viability;

19 (iii) Any related partnership with a state registered  
20 apprenticeship program;

21 (iv) The type of trade and if it is multicraft or single craft  
22 curriculum; and

23 (v) The entity funding the instruction, consumables, equipment,  
24 and facilities;

25 (b) Collect, maintain, and publish information and data on  
26 construction-related training programs for the previous four calendar  
27 years, including the following for each program:

28 (i) Numbers served, number of participants completing the  
29 program, and relevant demographics of participants;

30 (ii) Length of time between program completion and release from  
31 incarceration; and

32 (iii) Postrelease outcomes, including employment status,  
33 apprenticeship status, and recidivism rate, when such outcome data is  
34 available;

35 (c) Assess the following:

36 (i) The viability or progress of transitioning current  
37 construction-related training programs to meet state recognized  
38 apprenticeship preparation requirements;

1 (ii) The viability or progress of transitioning the curriculum  
2 for construction-related apprenticeship preparation programs to cover  
3 multiple construction crafts;

4 (iii) Any unmet support needed by construction-related training  
5 programs for instruction, including consumables and equipment, among  
6 other needs;

7 (iv) The viability or progress of implementing new state  
8 recognized apprenticeship preparation programs in correctional  
9 facilities; and

10 (v) Practices for conducting transitional planning and support  
11 for participants who complete construction-related training programs,  
12 including: Preenrollment into support services prior to release;  
13 inclusion of state registered apprenticeship program staff in the  
14 incarcerated persons' community reentry planning; and access to  
15 behavioral health services prior to transition; and

16 (d) Identify areas of concern and also make recommendations for  
17 appropriate and necessary changes to policies and practices to the  
18 department, state board for community and technical colleges,  
19 department of labor and industries, state registered apprenticeship  
20 programs, and other appropriate entities.

21 (4) The oversight committee shall submit a report to the  
22 legislature by October 1, 2025, with initial findings and  
23 recommendations for expanding access to construction-related state  
24 recognized apprenticeship preparation programs in state correctional  
25 facilities, and strengthening pathways for incarcerated persons to  
26 advance from those programs to state registered apprenticeship  
27 programs upon reentering the community. By October 1, 2026, and by  
28 October 1st of each even-numbered year thereafter, the oversight  
29 committee shall submit a report to the legislature summarizing its  
30 work from the last two-year period and providing any relevant  
31 findings and recommendations. The ombuds shall publish on its website  
32 on an ongoing basis information designed to improve access to and  
33 outcomes of programs, based on input and guidance provided by the  
34 oversight committee.

35 (5) (a) Beginning on the effective date of this section, the  
36 department shall collect data on the employment outcomes of  
37 incarcerated persons reentering the community after having  
38 participated in a construction-related training program in a  
39 correctional facility, including whether those persons participated  
40 in and completed any state registered apprenticeship programs. The

1 department, in consultation with the oversight committee and relevant  
2 state agencies, shall make efforts to track and collect data on  
3 employment outcomes for at least three years following a person's  
4 release from a state correctional facility. Upon request, the  
5 department shall report any data collected under this subsection to  
6 the oversight committee and the ombuds.

7 (b) By December 1, 2026, and by December 1st of each even-  
8 numbered year thereafter, the department of corrections shall submit  
9 a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature including  
10 the following information from the last two-year period: (i) the  
11 status of implementing any changes recommended by the oversight  
12 committee; (ii) the reasoning for not implementing any changes  
13 recommended by the oversight committee; and (iii) a summary of  
14 funding expended on construction-related training programs identified  
15 by the oversight committee, and a summary of any additional funding  
16 needed to support those programs.

17 (6) For the purpose of supporting the work of the oversight  
18 committee, the ombuds may consider relevant aspects of its work and  
19 communications, including any personally identifiable information of  
20 incarcerated persons, to constitute an investigation, subject to the  
21 confidentiality protections under RCW 43.06C.060. Oversight committee  
22 members shall maintain the confidentiality of any such records and  
23 information so identified by the ombuds. This subsection does not  
24 prohibit the oversight committee from publishing aggregate data or  
25 other information collected under subsection (3) of this section,  
26 provided that such data or information does not contain personally  
27 identifiable information.

--- END ---