
SENATE BILL 5131

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators C. Wilson, Chapman, Dhingra, Frame, Hasegawa, Nobles, Orwall, Saldaña, Stanford, and Wellman

Prefiled 01/03/25. Read first time 01/13/25. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to accommodating religious foods in state
2 correctional facilities; adding a new section to chapter 72.09 RCW;
3 and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the
6 constitutionally protected rights of incarcerated persons to believe,
7 express, and exercise the religion of their choice. The legislature
8 further recognizes the positive benefit of religious practice in the
9 form of positive behavior in institutions and in the community. The
10 legislature intends to affirm and support religious practices for
11 faith and cultural groups by providing opportunities to celebrate
12 practices and events. The legislature therefore resolves to codify
13 the opportunity for religious diets in state correctional facilities.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 72.09
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The department shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate
17 religious diets in state correctional facilities based on the request
18 of the incarcerated individual.

19 (2) Reasonable efforts under this section include but are not
20 limited to coordination and arrangements with a partnering nonprofit

1 organization in the provision and delivery of a religious diet,
2 including special menu items, meal enhancements, and donated foods.
3 The department may establish reasonable deadlines for sponsorship and
4 contribution of special menu items including special menu items, meal
5 enhancements, and donated foods, but no deadline may exceed 30 days
6 in advance of a religious event.

7 (3) Provision of a religious diet must be made at no cost to the
8 incarcerated person.

9 (4) If a therapeutic diet is recommended for the incarcerated
10 individual, the department shall provide a therapeutic diet that also
11 accommodates the religious diet requested by the incarcerated
12 individual.

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