
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2287

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By House Public Safety (originally sponsored by Representatives Hayes, Ortiz-Self, Eslick, Ryu, Harmsworth, Sells, Peterson, Van Werven, Pellicciotti, Klippert, Goodman, Kloba, Tarleton, Fey, Santos, Smith, Tharinger, Dolan, Valdez, Stanford, Appleton, Lovick, Doglio, Griffey, Stonier, and Gregerson)

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a criminal justice system
2 diversion center pilot project; adding a new section to chapter
3 36.28A RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that local
6 communities are struggling to identify solutions for addressing
7 certain populations of high needs individuals who have frequent
8 contact with law enforcement and are often homeless and impacted by
9 behavioral health issues. The legislature recognizes that a
10 coordinated and multidisciplinary approach is needed in order to
11 remedy the root causes of criminogenic and other behaviors underlying
12 the interactions between these individuals and the criminal justice
13 system. To this end, the legislature intends to establish two pilot
14 sites in which the most critical needs of these individuals can be
15 addressed in the same place, such as housing, behavioral health
16 treatment, employment, and expedient connection to other needed
17 services.

18 The legislature intends to measure the impacts of this innovative
19 partnership between law enforcement and human services in targeted
20 areas, including criminal justice recidivism rates, engagement in
21 services, and housing stability. If successful, the pilot will

1 establish a template for systems collaboration and targeted delivery
2 of services that can be replicated in other communities that are
3 attempting to address the same issues, thereby improving public
4 safety, making more efficient use of limited resources, and
5 instilling lasting and positive change within individual community
6 members.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 36.28A
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific purpose, the
10 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs must administer
11 a criminal justice system diversion center pilot project. The primary
12 objective of the pilot project is to make improvements in several
13 areas with respect to target populations, including: Reducing
14 recidivism; reducing the use of crisis and emergency resources;
15 decreasing behaviors associated with untreated mental health and
16 substance use disorders; increasing effective engagement with
17 treatment providers; increasing housing stability; increasing
18 engagement in prosocial activity; and increasing rates of employment
19 and financial self-sufficiency.

20 (2) The pilot project must include two grant awards to eligible
21 applicants, which must be selected and begin receiving grant funds by
22 July 1, 2018. The Washington association of sheriffs and police
23 chiefs must adopt policies and procedures necessary to administer the
24 pilot project, including policies and procedures for:

- 25 (a) The application process;
- 26 (b) Disbursement of the grant awards to the selected applicants;
- 27 (c) Tracking compliance and proper use of funds; and
- 28 (d) Measuring outcomes.

29 (3)(a) One grant must be awarded to a county located west of the
30 crest of the Cascade mountain range with a population of not less
31 than seven hundred fifty thousand and not more than eight hundred
32 fifteen thousand residents, and also contain a city with a population
33 of not less than ninety thousand and not more than one hundred fifty
34 thousand residents.

35 (b) One grant must be awarded to a county located east of the
36 crest of the Cascade mountain range with a population of not less
37 than four hundred seventy thousand and not more than five hundred
38 thirty-five thousand residents, and also contain a city with a

1 population of not less than one hundred seventy-five thousand and not
2 more than two hundred forty thousand residents.

3 (4) Eligible applicants must have established or be willing to
4 establish a coordinated effort with committed partners, and must
5 qualify under the population parameters established in subsection (3)
6 of this section.

7 (5) Each grant recipient shall:

8 (a) Establish approximately forty residential beds to be used for
9 short-term placements of up to ninety days, with placement
10 prioritized for the following populations:

11 (i) Individuals referred by law enforcement who are suspected of
12 having committed nonviolent crimes and whose behavior is suspected to
13 be influenced by a behavioral health issue;

14 (ii) Individuals referred by social workers embedded with law
15 enforcement agencies who have previous involvement in the criminal
16 justice system and who are awaiting inpatient residential treatment
17 or are working toward self-sufficiency following inpatient treatment;
18 and

19 (iii) Individuals with behavioral health issues who are being
20 released from jail, and are working with available reentry services
21 to address needs and secure housing;

22 (b) Provide skilled staff twenty-four hours per day and seven
23 days per week to deliver:

24 (i) Medical screening at intake and medical support throughout
25 the stay at the facility;

26 (ii) Thorough needs assessment services;

27 (iii) Assertive engagement into available services;

28 (iv) Individualized support and recovery plan development; and

29 (v) Facilitated contact with treatment providers, employment
30 services, housing, and other supports necessary to access appropriate
31 services;

32 (c) Provide a site for the pilot project in a location that
33 provides convenient access to relevant programming, such as:

34 (i) Housing and essential needs assistance;

35 (ii) Homelessness services;

36 (iii) Veterans' services;

37 (iv) Behavioral health services;

38 (v) Employment services;

39 (vi) Department of social and health services' community
40 services; and

1 (vii) Other services as necessary;

2 (d) Identify and maintain consistent, experienced, and committed
3 leadership for managing the grant, including an administrator who
4 acts as an available point of contact with the Washington association
5 of sheriffs and police chiefs;

6 (e) Collect and report data and information as needed for
7 compiling the report required in subsection (6) of this section; and

8 (f) Continue operation of the criminal justice system diversion
9 center for a minimum of two years following the December 1, 2019,
10 reporting date, unless the criminal justice system diversion center
11 pilot project could be considered unsuccessful according to the data
12 and information compiled in subsection (6) of this section.

13 (6) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs
14 shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
15 legislature by December 1, 2019. Each grant recipient must provide
16 the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs with a draft
17 analysis and report by October 1, 2019. The draft and final reports
18 must contain, at a minimum:

19 (a) A comparison of the number of arrest bookings and jail bed
20 days for individuals served in the pilot project, including data from
21 both six months and one year before admission to the pilot project as
22 well as, whenever possible, data from six months and one year
23 following admission to the pilot project;

24 (b) An analysis of connections to behavioral health services
25 among individuals served in the pilot project, including data from
26 both six months and one year before admission to the pilot project as
27 well as, whenever possible, data from six months and one year
28 following admission to the pilot project;

29 (c) A comparison of impacts to housing stability for individuals
30 served in the pilot project, including data from both six months and
31 one year before admission to the pilot project as well as, whenever
32 possible, data from six months and one year following admission to
33 the pilot project; and

34 (d) The number of individuals who, through participation in the
35 pilot project:

36 (i) Were connected to a detox program;

37 (ii) Completed a detox program;

38 (iii) Completed a chemical dependency assessment;

39 (iv) Completed chemical dependency treatment; and

40 (v) Were connected to housing.

1 (7) This section expires July 1, 2020.

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