
SENATE BILL 6060

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Senators Palumbo, Hobbs, Bailey, McCoy, and Chase

Prefiled 12/28/17.

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 a pilot
14 site in which the most critical needs of these individuals can be
15 addressed in one place, such as housing, behavioral health treatment,
16 employment, and expedient connection to other needed services.

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (3) An eligible applicant must:

29 (a) Be a county located west of the crest of the Cascade mountain
30 range with a population of not less than seven hundred fifty thousand
31 and not more than eight hundred fifteen thousand residents, and also
32 contain a city with a population of not less than ninety thousand and
33 not more than one hundred fifty thousand residents; and

34 (b) Have established or be willing to establish a coordinated
35 effort with committed partners.

36 (4) The grant recipient shall:

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

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

4 (ii) Individuals referred by social workers embedded with law
5 enforcement agencies who have previous involvement in the criminal
6 justice system and who are awaiting inpatient residential treatment
7 or are working toward self-sufficiency following inpatient treatment;
8 and

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

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

14 (i) Medical screening at intake and medical support throughout
15 the stay at the facility;

16 (ii) Thorough needs assessment services;

17 (iii) Assertive engagement into available services;

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

19 (v) Facilitated contact with treatment providers, employment
20 services, housing, and other supports necessary to access appropriate
21 services;

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

24 (i) Housing and essential needs assistance;

25 (ii) Homelessness services;

26 (iii) Veterans' services;

27 (iv) Behavioral health services;

28 (v) Employment services;

29 (vi) Department of social and health services' community
30 services; and

31 (vii) Other services as necessary;

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

36 (e) Collect and report data and information as needed for
37 compiling the report required in subsection (5) of this section.

38 (5) The Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs
39 shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
40 legislature by December 1, 2019. The grant recipient must provide the

1 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs with a draft
2 analysis and report by October 1, 2019. The draft and final reports
3 must contain, at a minimum:

4 (a) A comparison of the number of arrest bookings and jail bed
5 days for individuals served in the pilot project, including data from
6 both six months and one year before admission to the pilot project as
7 well as, whenever possible, data from six months and one year
8 following admission to the pilot project;

9 (b) An analysis of connections to behavioral health services
10 among individuals served in the pilot project, including data from
11 both six months and one year before admission to the pilot project as
12 well as, whenever possible, data from six months and one year
13 following admission to the pilot project;

14 (c) A comparison of impacts to housing stability for individuals
15 served in the pilot project, including data from both six months and
16 one year before admission to the pilot project as well as, whenever
17 possible, data from six months and one year following admission to
18 the pilot project; and

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

- 21 (i) Were connected to a detox program;
- 22 (ii) Completed a detox program;
- 23 (iii) Completed a chemical dependency assessment;
- 24 (iv) Completed chemical dependency treatment; and
- 25 (v) Were connected to housing.
- 26 (6) This section expires July 1, 2020.

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