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HOUSE BILL 1495

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State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Goodman and Klippert

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the joint legislative task force  
2 on criminal sentencing; creating a new section; and providing an  
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) A joint legislative task force on  
6 criminal sentencing is established.

7 (2) The task force is composed of members as provided in this  
8 subsection.

9 (a) The president of the senate shall appoint one member from  
10 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

11 (b) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one  
12 member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of  
13 representatives.

14 (c) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of  
15 representatives jointly shall appoint members representing the:

16 (i) Caseload forecast council;

17 (ii) Department of corrections;

18 (iii) Sentencing guidelines commission;

19 (iv) Statewide family council administered by the department of  
20 corrections;

21 (v) Statewide reentry council;

- 1 (vi) Superior court judges' association;
- 2 (vii) Washington association of criminal defense attorneys or the
- 3 Washington defender association;
- 4 (viii) Washington association of prosecuting attorneys;
- 5 (ix) Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs;
- 6 (x) Washington state association of counties;
- 7 (xi) Washington state minority and justice commission; and
- 8 (xii) Two different community organizations representing the
- 9 interests of incarcerated persons.

10 (3) The legislative membership shall convene the initial meeting  
11 of the task force no later than September 1, 2019. The legislative  
12 membership shall choose the task force's cochairs, which must include  
13 one senator and one representative from among the legislative  
14 membership of the task force.

15 (4) The task force shall review state sentencing laws, including  
16 a consideration of the report of the sentencing guidelines commission  
17 required by section 129, chapter 299, Laws of 2018. The task force  
18 shall develop recommendations for the purpose of:

- 19 (a) Reducing sentencing implementation complexities and errors;
- 20 (b) Improving the effectiveness of the sentencing system; and
- 21 (c) Promoting and improving public safety.

22 (5) The task force shall submit an initial report, including  
23 findings and recommendations, to the governor and the appropriate  
24 committees of the legislature by December 31, 2019. The task force  
25 shall submit a final report by December 31, 2020.

26 (6) Staff support for the task force must be provided by the  
27 senate committee services and the house of representatives office of  
28 program research.

29 (7) Legislative members of the task force are reimbursed for  
30 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
31 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they  
32 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,  
33 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for  
34 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

35 (8) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the  
36 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are  
37 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee  
38 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their  
39 successor committees.

1 (9) This section expires January 1, 2021.

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