
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1495

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House Public Safety (originally sponsored by Representatives Goodman, Klippert, Appleton, Ormsby, and Jenkins)

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 following:

17 (i) Caseload forecast council;

18 (ii) Department of corrections;

19 (iii) Sentencing guidelines commission;

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

- 1 (v) Statewide reentry council;
- 2 (vi) Superior court judges' association;
- 3 (vii) Washington association of criminal defense attorneys or the
4 Washington defender association;
- 5 (viii) Washington association of prosecuting attorneys;
- 6 (ix) Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs;
- 7 (x) Washington state association of counties;
- 8 (xi) Washington state minority and justice commission;
- 9 (xii) A labor organization representing active law enforcement
10 officers in Washington state; and
- 11 (xiii) Two different community organizations representing the
12 interests of incarcerated persons.

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

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

- 22 (a) Reducing sentencing implementation complexities and errors;
- 23 (b) Improving the effectiveness of the sentencing system; and
- 24 (c) Promoting and improving public safety.

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

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

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

38 (8) The expenses of the task force must be paid jointly by the
39 senate and the house of representatives. Task force expenditures are
40 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee

1 and the house of representatives executive rules committee, or their
2 successor committees.

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

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