
HOUSE BILL 2210

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representative Dye

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a wild horse holding and training
2 program at a state corrections center; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature is committed to helping
5 incarcerated persons successfully rejoin society after their release.
6 In Washington, correctional industries is an important stepping stone
7 for incarcerated persons to transition from a life behind bars to a
8 free, law-abiding, and productive life in the community. These
9 vocational and occupational programs are proven to promote
10 rehabilitation and redemption, reduce recidivism, and improve public
11 safety. The legislature intends to develop strategies for expanding
12 these programs offered to incarcerated persons. To that end,
13 correctional industries is hereby directed to evaluate the wild horse
14 training and holding program in Arizona, which is conducted in
15 partnership with Arizona correctional industries and the federal
16 bureau of land management, for the purpose of implementing a similar
17 program in Washington. Participants in the Arizona program have
18 successfully and skillfully cared for and trained wild horses, which
19 were then adopted or purchased by the public through the bureau of
20 land management wild horse and burro program. Program participants
21 use gentling techniques based in natural horsemanship and gain

1 equestrian skills they can use when seeking employment or building
2 businesses after being released. In the process, participants also
3 build self-confidence and learn the value of patience, warmth, and
4 respect for all living things. Early research indicates that
5 participants in the Arizona program have significantly lower
6 recidivism rates than the rest of the prison population, less than 15
7 percent as compared to 40 percent. The legislature recognizes the
8 Arizona program as a potential model for developing a similar program
9 at a state corrections center.

10 Further, establishing a similar training and holding program
11 would create an opportunity to address the statewide shortage of
12 farriers resulting from the closure of the farrier program at Walla
13 Walla Community College. A partnership between Walla Walla Community
14 College and correctional industries would assist with meeting the
15 demand for farrier services while also creating even more employment
16 opportunities for persons leaving correctional institutions.

17 Therefore, the legislature hereby directs correctional industries
18 to conduct a feasibility study and develop an implementation plan for
19 the purpose of establishing a wild horse training, holding, and
20 farrier program at a state corrections center.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of corrections, through
22 correctional industries, shall conduct a feasibility study and
23 develop a plan for implementing a wild horse training, holding, and
24 farrier program at a state corrections center. The program must be
25 designed in partnership with the federal bureau of land management
26 wild horse and burro program, for the purpose of assisting
27 incarcerated persons with developing occupational, vocational, and
28 life skills.

29 (2) In conducting the study and developing an implementation
30 plan, the department shall consult with the bureau of land management
31 wild horse and burro program, the state department of natural
32 resources, the state department of agriculture, Walla Walla Community
33 College, Washington State University, other appropriate state and
34 federal agencies, local governments, and experts in the field of wild
35 horse management and training. The department must:

36 (a) Ensure the plan will use natural horsemanship as a basis for
37 gentling and training;

38 (b) Evaluate and consult with similar programs in other states,
39 including reviewing existing agreements with the bureau of land

1 management and studying operations and facilities used by those
2 programs;

3 (c) Develop design and construction options for holding and
4 training program facilities, which must include a consideration of:
5 (i) The safety and welfare of incarcerated persons and staff; (ii)
6 maintaining appropriate levels of security for a correctional
7 institution; (iii) the welfare of the horses and the facilities
8 necessary to support the proposed number of horses; and (iv) sourcing
9 cost-effective materials, including repurposing materials from
10 existing facilities;

11 (d) Determine the costs of establishing and maintaining
12 operations, facilities, and staff for a holding program to feed, care
13 for, and restore bureau of land management horses and burros as well
14 as for a training program, which must consider: Utilizing
15 correctional industries for constructing, maintaining, and operating
16 facilities; financial support from the bureau of land management for
17 holding the horses; and leveraging other available federal funding;

18 (e) Evaluate the availability of land necessary to support the
19 program, which must include an evaluation of: (i) Current state
20 property and adjacent private or public property available for lease
21 or acquisition to be used for hay production, with the goal of
22 promoting agricultural and farming skills through the holding and
23 training program; (ii) current state property and adjacent private or
24 public property available for lease or acquisition to be used for
25 training facilities and holding facilities; and (iii) the water
26 necessary and available for operations, including well water and
27 surface water sourced from the region;

28 (f) Evaluate the steps necessary to develop a partnership with
29 Walla Walla Community College for the purpose of establishing a
30 course for qualifying participants to obtain a farrier certificate to
31 be completed in conjunction with the wild horse training program. The
32 course may also include a business basics class or component to
33 assist participants with managing their farrier careers following
34 their release;

35 (g) Consult with Washington State University to determine whether
36 the college of veterinary medicine may have students practice care at
37 the training and holding facilities; and

38 (h) Assess any changes to state statutes or department policies
39 necessary to implement the program.

1 (3) The department shall complete the study and submit a report
2 and implementation plan to the governor and appropriate committees of
3 the legislature no later than November 1, 2024.

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