
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5433

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Wilson, C., Nguyen, Das, Darneille, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Kuderer, and Saldaña)

1 AN ACT Relating to providing postsecondary education
2 opportunities to enhance public safety; amending 2017 c 120 s 1
3 (uncodified); creating a new section; and providing an expiration
4 date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** 2017 c 120 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as
7 follows:

8 (1) The legislature finds that studies clearly and consistently
9 demonstrate that incarcerated adults who obtain (~~associate-degree~~)
10 postsecondary education and training are more likely to be employed
11 following release, which leads to a dramatic reduction in recidivism
12 rates, significant improvements in public safety, and a major return
13 on investment. The legislature finds that reducing recidivism would
14 decrease the financial burden to taxpayers and the emotional burden
15 of victims.

16 (2) The legislature finds that research indicates that
17 (~~associate-degree~~) postsecondary education and training is an
18 effective evidence-based practice for reducing recidivism. An
19 analysis commissioned by the United States department of justice
20 determined that adults who received such education while incarcerated
21 were forty-three percent less likely to recidivate.

1 (3) Ninety-five percent of incarcerated adults ultimately return
2 to their communities to obtain employment and contribute to society.
3 The legislature finds that according to the bureau of labor
4 statistics, unemployment rates for people with only a high school
5 education are twice that of those with an associate degree. Research
6 has shown that adults who participated in such education while
7 incarcerated were thirteen percent more likely to be employed.

8 (4) The legislature further finds that correctional education is
9 cost-effective. A 2014 study by the Washington state institute for
10 public policy estimated that the state received a return on
11 investment of twenty dollars for every dollar invested in
12 correctional education.

13 (5) It is the intent of the legislature to enhance public safety
14 ~~((by reducing)),~~ reduce crime ~~((and increasing)),~~ and increase
15 employment rates in a cost-effective manner by ~~((authorizing~~
16 ~~associate degree))~~ exploring benefits and costs associated with
17 providing postsecondary education degree opportunities and training
18 ~~((of))~~ to incarcerated adults through expanded partnerships between
19 the community and technical colleges and the department of
20 corrections.

21 ~~((The legislature does not intend to provide additional~~
22 ~~funding to the department of corrections with chapter 120, Laws of~~
23 ~~2017 and intends that the department of corrections incorporate~~
24 ~~associate degree education into its available educational and~~
25 ~~vocational opportunities for offenders within existing funds set~~
26 ~~aside for this purpose.))~~ It is the intent of the legislature to
27 support exploring the use of secure internet connections expressly
28 for the purposes of furthering postsecondary education degree
29 opportunities and training of incarcerated adults. The legislature
30 intends for the department to be able to provide complete assurance
31 that all offender-used internet connections are secure.

32 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
33 appropriated for this specific purpose, the department of
34 corrections, the state board for community and technical colleges,
35 and the office of the chief information officer shall submit, in
36 compliance with RCW 43.01.036, a report to the governor and the
37 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2019,
38 including the following:

1 (a) A plan for implementing secure internet connections to
2 achieve the purposes of this act;

3 (b) The barriers and costs associated with implementing secure
4 internet connections for the purpose of postsecondary education and
5 training of incarcerated individuals;

6 (c) A review of the fiscal impacts, including any estimated
7 capital and operating costs associated with expanding current
8 educational opportunities to include providing postsecondary
9 education degree opportunities and training to incarcerated adults
10 through expanded partnerships between the community and technical
11 colleges and the department of corrections;

12 (d) A plan for implementing the expansion of postsecondary
13 education degree opportunities, specifying the estimated period of
14 time necessary for implementation, within the estimated costs
15 associated with the fiscal impacts reviewed in (c) of this
16 subsection.

17 (2) The department may not implement or utilize a new secure
18 internet connection for offender postsecondary education until the
19 legislature reviews the report mentioned in this section.

20 (3) This section expires December 31, 2019.

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