

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5719

As of February 3, 1995

Title: An act relating to earned early release time.

Brief Description: Requiring inmates to complete a high school education before using earned early release time.

Sponsors: Senator West.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Human Services & Corrections:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

Staff: Andrea McNamara (786-7483)

Background: Since 1981, the Department of Corrections has utilized a written system of incentives for good conduct and disincentives for poor conduct among offenders in correctional facilities. Earned early release days are offered as rewards for compliance with department rules and for successful performance in work, work training, or educational programs. Most offenders are eligible to reduce their sentences by up to one-third with earned early release time. Certain felons may earn credit for a maximum of 15 percent of their total sentence through earned early release time. Other felons may only earn transfer to community custody status in lieu of earned early release.

Summary of Bill: Offenders may not use any earned early release time until they have completed a high school education or received a passing score on their general educational development test (GED). The department is directed to revise its system governing earned early release time to provide for this education requirement as a prerequisite to using earned early release time.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 3, 1995.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.