
HOUSE BILL 1143

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives O'Brien, Pearson, Sells, Ericks, Springer, Ormsby, and Simpson

Read first time 01/14/09. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the availability of safe sex offender
2 housing; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that homeless sex
5 offenders present unique risks to law enforcement, corrections
6 personnel, and local communities because the offenders' transience
7 makes them more difficult to track and monitor, makes community
8 notification more difficult, and inhibits the offenders' ability to
9 gain employment and access services. The legislature further finds
10 that locating housing for sex offenders can be highly challenging and
11 that the department of corrections is therefore frequently forced to
12 release offenders as homeless once they have served their maximum terms
13 of confinement. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to
14 improve public safety by requiring the department of corrections to
15 seek out innovative ways in which to increase the availability of safe
16 sex offender housing.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of corrections shall
18 study ways in which to increase the availability of sex offender

1 housing. The study shall identify specific properties and specific
2 types of properties that could be used to house released sex offenders
3 on community custody in a manner that is not detrimental to, or that
4 increases, community safety. When performing the study, the department
5 shall, at a minimum, consider the following:

6 (a) The availability of existing department of corrections
7 facilities that could be retasked for sex offender housing in a manner
8 that is not detrimental to community safety;

9 (b) The availability of other state property that could be used for
10 sex offender housing in a manner that is not detrimental to community
11 safety;

12 (c) The availability of federal, local governmental, or private
13 property that could be purchased or leased for purposes of sex offender
14 housing in a manner that is not detrimental to community safety; and

15 (d) Any legal barriers to utilizing, leasing, or acquiring property
16 for purposes of sex offender housing.

17 (2) When performing the study, the department shall consult with
18 individuals and organizations that have expertise in sex offender
19 community safety, sex offender housing, and the acquisition and use of
20 state property including, but not limited to, law enforcement, victims'
21 advocacy organizations, local governments, organizations that provide
22 housing to the homeless, community corrections officers, the department
23 of general administration, and the Washington state institute for
24 public policy.

25 (3) The department of corrections shall report its findings to the
26 governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature no later
27 than December 1, 2009.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires January 1, 2010.

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