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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5548**

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**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2007 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Kline, Hargrove and Carrell)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/07.

1       AN ACT Relating to statewide standards for adult and juvenile  
2 probation officers; creating new sections; and providing an expiration  
3 date.

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

5       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there is a need  
6 to consider statewide standards for adult and juvenile probation  
7 officers supervising adult misdemeanant and juvenile offenders.

8       While probation officers are required to complete training and  
9 educational requirements provided by the criminal justice and training  
10 commission, currently there are no statewide standards for probation  
11 and no accreditation program in use. The adoption of statewide  
12 standards or an accreditation program for adult and juvenile probation  
13 officers may help to provide improved staff training and development,  
14 better defense against lawsuits through improved documentation,  
15 improved staff morale and professionalism, a safer environment for  
16 staff and offenders, and potentially reduced liability insurance costs.

17       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington administrative office of  
18 the courts is requested to convene and staff a work group to review

1 alternatives and recommend statewide standards or an accreditation  
2 program for probation officers who supervise adult misdemeanant  
3 offenders.

4 (2) The work group should be composed of representatives from:

5 (a) The district and municipal court judges' association;

6 (b) The Washington state association of counties;

7 (c) The association of Washington cities;

8 (d) The misdemeanor corrections association;

9 (e) The criminal justice training commission; and

10 (f) Liability insurance providers for local government.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The Washington administrative office of  
12 the courts is requested to convene and staff a work group to review  
13 alternatives and recommend statewide standards or an accreditation  
14 program for probation officers who supervise juvenile offenders.

15 (2) The work group should be composed of representatives from:

16 (a) The Washington association of juvenile court administrators;

17 (b) The superior court judges' association;

18 (c) The Washington state association of counties;

19 (d) The criminal justice training commission; and

20 (e) Liability insurance providers for local government.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** In reviewing standards or accreditation  
22 options, the work groups should consider:

23 (1) Defining caseload levels appropriate for each level of  
24 probation officer;

25 (2) Defining case management and probation services to offenders  
26 referred by a municipal court, district court, or juvenile court;

27 (3) Defining the types of probation services that are to be  
28 covered, including alternative sentencing programs, such as electronic  
29 home monitoring, community service, day reporting, and other types of  
30 programs as implemented to effectively manage jail or juvenile  
31 detention population;

32 (4) Specifying appropriate supervisory work responsibilities for  
33 each level of probation officer, including distribution of caseload  
34 functions and court referrals, workload organization and assignment,  
35 monitoring of work completion, recommendations of work procedures,  
36 assisting with hiring and evaluation processes, recommendations for

1 corrective action, and formulating and making recommendations to the  
2 court on the dispensation of referred cases based on judgment of  
3 individual circumstances;

4 (5) Defining appropriate case management responsibilities of adult  
5 and juvenile probation officers, including meeting with offenders,  
6 attorneys, and other interested parties; developing individual  
7 treatment plans; performing skills assessment; identifying problems;  
8 performing counseling; assisting probationers with participation in  
9 positive activities; assessing social and psychological dysfunctions;  
10 providing referrals to community services where appropriate; monitoring  
11 compliance and investigating potential or actual violations; conducting  
12 presentencing and postsentencing investigations and reports for the  
13 court; testifying in court regarding probationer status as necessary;  
14 and maintaining records and documentation required by the court or  
15 statutes;

16 (6) Accreditation standards developed by the American correctional  
17 association and any other appropriate standards in other states; and

18 (7) Curricula and training needs of adult and juvenile probation  
19 officers to meet proposed standards or accreditation.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The work groups are requested to report  
21 their findings and recommendations to the governor and the relevant  
22 committees of the legislature that deal with judiciary issues by  
23 December 1, 2008.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
25 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
26 June 30, 2007, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
27 void.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act expires December 30, 2008.

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