
SENATE BILL 5203

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Palumbo, Wagoner, Nguyen, Mullet, Carlyle, Hunt, Das, Randall, and Wellman

Read first time 01/16/19. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing opportunities for apprenticeships
2 for inmates; adding a new section to chapter 72.09 RCW; and providing
3 an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 72.09
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that providing quality training,
8 employment navigation, and supportive employment services helps
9 former inmates lead successful family-wage careers postrelease.
10 Inmates who participate in vocational training are twenty-eight
11 percent more likely to be employed after their release than those who
12 do not receive vocational training. Vocational training programs are
13 cost-effective when comparing the investment in workforce development
14 costs to the cost of reincarceration.

15 (2) The secretary shall award a nongovernmental agency
16 experienced with preapprenticeship training and employment navigation
17 with one hundred thousand dollars annually to establish an
18 apprenticeship opportunity pilot program at the Monroe correctional
19 complex until December 31, 2023. The apprenticeship opportunity pilot
20 program will help former inmates complete preapprenticeship training,
21 as well as provide the training, employment navigation, and support

1 services needed to help inmates enter and succeed in apprenticeship
2 programs.

3 (3) The nongovernmental agency partner shall provide former
4 inmates with the requisite tools and other support services to
5 increase the likelihood of former inmates completing their
6 apprenticeships.

7 (4) The nongovernmental agency partner shall track the following
8 information regarding the participating inmate for two years after
9 his or her release:

10 (a) Wage;

11 (b) Employment history and pattern, including monthly checks of
12 whether the former inmate continues to be employed;

13 (c) Apprenticeship retention;

14 (d) Recidivism; and

15 (e) Stability chart that includes the participating inmate's
16 geographical city, housing, food security, and transportation.

17 (5) The department shall report to the legislature on the
18 effectiveness of the apprenticeship opportunity pilot program,
19 including an analysis of the data collected under subsection (4) of
20 this section, by December 31, 2023.

21 (6) This section expires January 1, 2024.

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