



State of Washington

STATEWIDE REENTRY COUNCIL

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Reentry Council 2018 Legislative Session Priority Bill Passage Summary

HB 1298 – Otriz-Self – Fair Chance Employment

This legislation establishes the Washington Fair Chance Act. It prohibits employers from including any question on an application for employment about an applicant's criminal record until after the employer initially determines that the applicant is otherwise qualified for the position. This includes inquiring either orally or in writing, receiving information through a criminal history background check or from otherwise obtaining information. The state Attorney General's Office will enforce this act.

HB 1783 – Holy – Legal Financial Obligations

This legislation addresses legal financial obligations. It eliminates the accrual of interest on certain nonrestitution portions of legal financial obligations. The bill also prohibits a court from imposing costs on a defendant who is indigent at the time of sentencing.

HB 1889 – Pettigrew - Corrections Ombuds

This legislation creates the Office of the Corrections Ombuds within the Governor's Office for the purpose of:

- (1) Providing information to inmates and their families;
 - (2) Promoting public awareness and understanding of the rights and responsibilities of inmates;
 - (3) Identifying system issues and responses for the Governor and the legislature to act upon;
- and
- (4) Ensuring compliance with relevant statutes, rules, and policies pertaining to corrections facilities, services, and treatment of inmates under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections.

It also exempts records exchanged and communications between the Office of the Corrections Ombuds and DOC, including the investigative record from public disclosure.

HB 2578 – Riccelli – Source of Income Discrimination/Landlord Mitigation

This legislation prohibits a landlord from refusing to lease or rent real property to a prospective tenant or current tenant, or expelling a tenant from real property, based on the source of income of an otherwise eligible tenant. It also creates the landlord mitigation program that can reimburse landlords for damages and requires the Department of Commerce to administer the program and adopt rules it deems necessary for the administration of the program. This includes creation of a Landlord Mitigation Program Account through an increase to the Affordable Housing for All Surcharge.

HB 2638 – Goodman – Graduated Reentry

This legislation authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Corrections (DOC) to transfer an incarcerated individual from a department correctional facility to a home detention in the community if it is determined that the graduated reentry program is an appropriate placement. The bill requires the Secretary to assist the individual's transition from confinement to the community and it creates a graduated reentry program of partial confinement for certain people in DOC custody.

SB 6582 – Chase – Fair Chance Higher Education

This legislation establishes the Washington Fair Chance to Education Act. It prohibits an institution of higher education from using an initial admissions application that requests information about the criminal history of an applicant. However, the institution may use a third-party admissions application that contains information about the criminal history of the applicant if the institution posts a notice on its web site stating that it may not automatically or unreasonably deny an applicant's admission or restrict access to campus residency based on an applicant's criminal history.

For further information please contact:

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