

**NEW SECTION.** Sec. 3. The department of corrections shall report to the legislature by July 1, 1987, on the methods used to evaluate the effectiveness of the prison work program including the rehabilitation of inmates and reducing recidivism.

Passed the House March 8, 1986.

Passed the Senate February 27, 1986.

Approved by the Governor March 19, 1986.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 19, 1986.

## CHAPTER 95

[Substitute House Bill No. 1356]

### MANDATORY ARBITRATION PROGRAM—DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER—JOINT FAMILY COURT SERVICES—MEDIATION

AN ACT Relating to superior courts; amending RCW 2.08.067; adding a new section to chapter 7.75 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 26.12 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 26.09 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Sec. 1. Section 5, chapter 357, Laws of 1985 and RCW 2.08.067 are each amended to read as follows:

All judicial positions created by the legislature after ~~((the effective date of this act))~~ July 28, 1985, including the additional judicial positions created by ~~((sections 1 through 3, chapter 357, Laws of 1985))~~ RCW 2.08.061, 2.08.062, and 2.08.064, shall be authorized only for counties that have implemented a mandatory arbitration program for civil claims to the maximum extent permitted by law. This section does not apply to counties of the third class or smaller, or to two- and three-county judicial districts with a population of less than seventy thousand. Implementing a mandatory arbitration program to the maximum extent permitted by law does not require a county to authorize arbitration for maintenance or child support issues as provided in RCW 7.06.020(2) if:

(1) The county uses a show cause or motion by affidavit calendar, or other procedure by which maintenance or support issues are decided on a summary basis; or

(2) Upon the request of the chief administrative judge of a judicial district, the office of the administrator for the courts determines that a mandatory arbitration program would be more costly and time consuming to the county than the procedure then in use in the county for determining support or maintenance issues.

**NEW SECTION.** Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 7.75 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Members of the board of directors of a dispute resolution center are immune from suit in any civil action based upon any proceedings or other official acts performed in good faith as members of the board.

(2) Employees and volunteers of a dispute resolution center are immune from suit in any civil action based on any proceedings or other official acts performed in their capacity as employees or volunteers, except in cases of wilful or wanton misconduct.

(3) A dispute resolution center is immune from suit in any civil action based on any of its proceedings or other official acts performed by its employees, volunteers, or members or its board of directors, except (a) in cases of wilful or wanton misconduct by its employees or volunteers, and (b) in cases of official acts performed in bad faith by members of its board.

**NEW SECTION.** Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 26.12 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Any county may contract under chapter 39.34 RCW with any other county or counties to provide joint family court services.

(2) Any agreement between two or more counties for the operation of a joint family court service may provide that the treasurer of one participating county shall be the custodian of moneys made available for the purposes of the joint services, and that the treasurer may make payments from the moneys upon proper authorization.

(3) Any agreement between two or more counties for the operation of a joint family court service may also provide:

(a) For the joint provision or operation of services and facilities or for the provision or operation of services and facilities by one participating county under contract for the other participating counties;

(b) For appointments of members of the staff of the family court including the supervising counselor;

(c) That, for specified purposes, the members of the staff of the family court including the supervising counselor, but excluding the judges of the family court and other court personnel, shall be considered to be employees of one participating county;

(d) For other matters as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(4) The provisions of this chapter relating to family court services provided by a single county are equally applicable to counties which contract, under this section, to provide joint family court services.

**NEW SECTION.** Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 26.09 RCW to read as follows:

(1) In any proceeding under this chapter, the matter may be set for mediation of the contested issues before or concurrent with the setting of the matter for hearing. The purpose of the mediation proceeding shall be to reduce acrimony which may exist between the parties and to develop an agreement assuring the child's close and continuing contact with both parents after the marriage is dissolved. The mediator shall use his or her best efforts to effect a settlement of the custody or visitation dispute.

(2) Each superior court may make available a mediator. The mediator may be a member of the professional staff of a family court or mental health services agency, or may be any other person or agency designated by the court. In order to provide mediation services, the court is not required to institute a family court.

(3) Mediation proceedings shall be held in private and shall be confidential. The mediator shall not testify as to any aspect of the mediation proceedings.

(4) The mediator shall assess the needs and interests of the child or children involved in the controversy and may interview the child or children if the mediator deems such interview appropriate or necessary.

(5) Any agreement reached by the parties as a result of mediation shall be reported to the court and to counsel for the parties by the mediator on the day set for mediation or any time thereafter designated by the court.

Passed the House March 8, 1986.

Passed the Senate March 3, 1986.

Approved by the Governor March 19, 1986.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 19, 1986.

## CHAPTER 96

[Substitute House Bill No. 1815]

### SPECIAL PARKING PRIVILEGES FOR DISABLED PERSONS

AN ACT Relating to special parking privileges for disabled persons; and amending RCW 46.16.381.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Sec. 1. Section 2, chapter 154, Laws of 1984 and RCW 46.16.381 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The director shall grant special parking privileges to any person who meets one of the following criteria:

(a) Loss of both lower limbs;

(b) Loss of normal or full use of the lower limbs to sufficiently constitute a severe disability;

(c) Is so severely disabled, that the person cannot move without the aid of crutches or a wheelchair;

(d) Loss of both hands;

(e) Suffers from lung disease to such an extent that forced expiratory respiratory volume, when measured by spirometry is less than one liter per second; or

(f) Impairment by cardiovascular disease to the extent that the person's functional limitations are classified as class III or IV under standards accepted by the American Heart Association.