

CHAPTER 296

[Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 579]

PRISON WORK PROGRAMS

AN ACT Relating to prison work programs; adding a new section to chapter 43.19 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature finds and declares that the costs of state government automated data input and retrieval are escalating. The legislature further finds and declares that new record conversion technologies offer a promising means for coping with current records management problems.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. It is the policy of the state of Washington that state prisons shall provide prisoners with a work environment in order that, upon their release, inmates may have the skills necessary for the successful reentry into society. It is also the policy of the state to promote the establishment and growth of prison industries whose work shall benefit the state.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The department of general administration and the department of corrections shall implement prison work programs to operate automated data input and retrieval systems for appropriate departments of state government.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Class II institutional industries may subcontract its data input and microfilm capacities to firms from the private sector. Inmates employed under these subcontracts will be paid in accordance with the Class I free venture industries procedures and wage scale.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. There is added to chapter 43.19 RCW a new section to read as follows:

General administration and the data processing authority shall report biennially to the legislature about the degree to which the data entry and microfilm services of institutional industries were used to perform the state's data entry and microfilm work. The report shall include information on the comparative costs of such service.

Passed the House April 23, 1983.

Passed the Senate April 21, 1983.

Approved by the Governor May 17, 1983.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 17, 1983.