

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Nolan
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Winters

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and as Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 25 – 0 – 0

House

Yeas: Beyer, Buckley, Cowan, Freeman, Garrard, Komp, Kotek, McLane, Nathanson, Nolan, Richardson, G. Smith, Thatcher, Whisnant

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Thomsen, Verger, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Doug Wilson, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 20, 2011

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes the Department of Corrections (DOC) to establish an on-the-job training program for offenders released back into the community from DOC and who need training to secure jobs or retain employment. The agency is to provide grants to counties who will administer the training programs. The DOC or counties may enter into agreements with employers to provide on-the-job training DOC or county are to reimburse an employer for costs of providing training and supervision related to the training. Requires on-the-job training be at least six weeks long and 20 hours per week. Each ex-offender in the program must be assessed to determine if the offender has the necessary skills to meet a potential employer's minimum employment requirements or has special needs that must be addressed. Requires DOC to at least annually review trained employment retention. The agency may seek grant and other funding for the program. DOC must report to the Legislature by April 2013 on the progress of the program. Declares emergency and is effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential funding source

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies that program is optional for the Department of Corrections.

BACKGROUND: One of the most important factors in reducing the chances of an ex-offender re-offending after release from prison is employment. Research indicates the ex-offender is less likely to re-offend if he or she has employment after their release.