

HOUSE BILL REPORT

EHB 1500

As Amended by the Senate

Title: An act relating to jail labor.

Brief Description: Increasing the pay for jail labor performed by prisoners with outstanding fines and costs.

Sponsor(s): Representatives Riley, Hargrove, Basich, Wood, Roland, Appelwick, Paris and Scott.

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
Human Services, February 27, 1991, DP;
Passed House, March 12, 1991, 95-3;
Amended by Senate.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN SERVICES**

Majority Report: *Do pass.* Signed by 11 members: Representatives Leonard, Chair; Riley, Vice Chair; Winsley, Ranking Minority Member; Tate, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Anderson; Beck; Brekke; Hargrove; Hochstatter; R. King; and H. Myers.

Staff: Antonio Sanchez (786-7383).

Background: Local jails currently have the authority to order a person into custody if he/she fails to pay fines and costs assessed against them in court within five days. The offender is required to remain in jail until the fines and costs owing are paid. The jailed offender is credited a dollar amount towards their fine for every day they spend incarcerated. If an offender chooses to work while in jail, their fine will be reduced by \$35 per day. If he/she chooses not to work during their term of incarceration, they will be credited \$25 a day towards their assessed fines.

Summary of Bill: The dollar amount credited to a jail inmate while serving time for failure to pay fines and costs assessed against them in court, is increased. The dollar amount credited for a day in jail is raised to \$60 per day, if the inmate performs labor. If the offender does not perform labor while they are in jail, the rate credited towards the amount they owe will be \$42 per day.

EFFECT OF SENATE AMENDMENT(S): The \$65 amount credited to an inmate who chooses to work and the \$42 amount credited to an inmate who does not work is eliminated. County jails are allowed to establish the the amount an inmate will be credited towards court costs and fines while serving jail time.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This measure allows county jails to reduce overcrowding.

Testimony Against: None.

Witnesses: Kurt Shaver and Kathleen Collins, Washington State Association of Counties.

VOTE ON FINAL PASSAGE:

Yeas 95; Nays 3; Excused 0

Nays: Representatives Fuhrman, Morton and Padden.