
SENATE BILL 5129

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Hobbs, Shin, Padden, Bailey, Hatfield, Ranker, Delvin, Eide, Braun, Billig, Pearson, Tom, Sheldon, Conway, Rolfes, Kohl-Welles, Schlicher, and Roach

Read first time 01/21/13. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing the establishment and use of
2 veterans' treatment courts; amending RCW 2.28.190; adding a new section
3 to chapter 2.28 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 2.28 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The chief justice of the supreme court may establish veterans'
8 treatment courts for veterans and members of the United States armed
9 forces. The supreme court may adopt administrative orders and court
10 rules of practice and procedure as necessary.

11 (2) Any jurisdiction that establishes a veterans' treatment court
12 under this section may seek federal funding as it becomes available for
13 the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of veterans' treatment
14 courts and for the provision by participating agencies of treatment to
15 participating veterans. The administrative office of the courts may
16 enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with the departments
17 and agencies to provide treatment and other social services to
18 participants. The departments and agencies shall collaborate and, to

1 the extent possible, provide financial and other assistance to the
2 judicial branch in order to establish and maintain veterans' treatment
3 courts.

4 (3) For the purposes of this section, "veterans' treatment court"
5 means a specialized sentencing docket in select criminal cases in which
6 the defendant is a veteran or member of the United States armed forces
7 to enable veterans agencies and social services agencies to provide
8 treatment for that defendant. The veterans' treatment court does not
9 provide treatment but contracts or collaborates with experienced and
10 expert treatment providers.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 2.28.190 and 2011 c 293 s 11 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 Any county that has established a DUI court, drug court, veterans'
14 treatment court, and a mental health court under this chapter may
15 combine the functions of these courts into a single therapeutic court.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
18 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
19 immediately.

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