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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6252**

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**State of Washington**

**63rd Legislature**

**2014 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Dammeier, Conway, and O'Ban)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to residence locations of felony sex offenders; and  
2 creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that housing sex  
5 offenders reentering the community from prison presents unique  
6 challenges. It is understandable that residents do not want sex  
7 offenders living near their homes and neighborhoods. Notwithstanding,  
8 the state is faced with a population of offenders who will eventually  
9 be released out into the community. Research shows that the proximity  
10 of an offender's residence to vulnerable populations has little  
11 correlation to recidivism. Further, community safety can be enhanced  
12 when offenders have a stable residence close to supportive resources.  
13 That safety can be frustrated by laws and policies that effectively  
14 eliminate any viable residence within city limits.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The sex offender policy board is  
16 directed to review policies relating to the release and housing of sex  
17 offenders in the community, including, but not limited to:

1 (a) The process of identifying and approving housing providers for  
2 participation in the housing voucher program with the department of  
3 corrections;

4 (b) Guidelines and restrictions on the placement or residence of  
5 sex offenders depending on the offender's crime of conviction or risk  
6 level; and

7 (c) The impact of city and county ordinances.

8 (2) The board shall make recommendations that balance the need to  
9 find housing for offenders, improved public safety, and the general  
10 public's need to feel safe in their communities.

11 (3) The board shall invite representatives from the Washington  
12 state association of counties and the association of Washington cities  
13 to participate and must provide an opportunity to receive public  
14 comment.

15 (4) The board shall submit its report and recommendations to the  
16 governor and the relevant committees of the legislature no later than  
17 December 1, 2014.

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