

FORMATTING NOTE:

In initiatives, legislative bills and other proposed measures, language that is to be deleted from current statutes is represented by a "strikethrough" character and language that is to be added is underlined. Because these special characters cannot be formatted in all Internet browsers, a different set of symbols is used for presenting these proposals on-line. The symbols are as follows:

- Text that is surrounded by (({- text here -})) is text that will be DELETED FROM the existing statute if the proposed measure is approved.
- Text that is surrounded by {+ text here +} is text that will be ADDED TO the existing statute if the proposed measure is approved.
- {+ NEW SECTION+} (found at the beginning of a section or paragraph) indicates that ALL of the text in that section will become law if the proposed measure is approved.

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INITIATIVE 739

AN ACT Relating to drug offenses; reenacting and amending RCW 69.50.401; adding a new chapter to Title 70 RCW; creating a new section; prescribing penalties; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 1. FINDINGS AND INTENT. (1) The people of Washington state find as follows:

(a) Our jails and prisons are overcrowded as a result of incarcerating nonviolent drug possession offenders. Incarcerating these offenders forces our corrections and police systems to focus limited resources on nonviolent offenders.

(b) Studies conducted by the federal government as well as those states which have replaced drug treatment programs for incarceration have shown that treatment is more effective at reducing drug-related crime and saves money.

(c) Imprisoning people for use of marijuana takes money from law enforcement budgets which could be better used to pursue violent offenders.

(2) Therefore, the people of Washington state intend to:

(a) Send nonviolent, simple drug possession offenders to treatment programs rather than jail or prison; and

(b) Impose fines rather than jail sentences for simple possession of small amounts of marijuana; and

(c) Require the Washington state legislature to appropriate funds for a broad range of treatment programs to be paid for by savings from lower rates of incarceration and crime.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 2. DEFINITIONS. The definitions in this section and RCW 9.94A.120 and 70.96A.020 apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Simple drug possession offense" means the nonviolent, unlawful possession, use, or transportation for personal use of any controlled substance defined in RCW 69.50.101(d). "Simple drug possession offense" does not include manufacturing, delivery, or possession with intent to deliver of any controlled substance.

(2) "Treatment" or "treatment program" means a program approved by the agency for persons found guilty of a simple drug possession offense which has as its sole purpose the rehabilitation of the

offender and delivers services of a type and in a manner that has been shown to advance the rehabilitative purposes of this chapter. A treatment program must be operated in facilities other than correctional facilities and may include or have as one of its components one or more of the following: diagnostic evaluation, outpatient treatment and/or counseling, half-way house treatment, drug replacement medical treatment, chemical dependency education and counseling, drug use prevention and harm reduction counseling, limited intensive inpatient or residential drug treatment as needed to address special detoxification or relapse situations or to treat persons gravely disabled by alcohol or other drugs, family counseling, social service care, vocational rehabilitation and career counseling, or literacy training. Drug testing may be a minor component of, but may not substitute for, a treatment program.

(3) "Treatment plan" means the documented recommendations of an appropriately trained treatment professional, following an assessment of the offender, identifying the least restrictive treatment programs reasonably calculated to assist the offender to end dependence on illegal drugs and avoid drug-related activities that are harmful to others.

(4) "Offender" means any person found guilty of a simple drug possession offense.

(5) "Agency" means the division of alcohol and substance abuse.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 3. POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES--TREATMENT--EXCEPTIONS. (1)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as provided in subsection (3) of this section and section 4(2) of this act, no offender may be sentenced to incarceration in any correctional facility as a result of having been found guilty of a simple drug possession offense.

(b) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section, upon finding a person guilty of a simple drug possession offense, the court shall require the offender to participate in and complete, and the agency shall provide, a treatment program pursuant to an individualized treatment plan.

(c) Notwithstanding the requirement in this chapter that treatment programs be operated in facilities other than correctional facilities, the court may require and the agency accordingly shall provide treatment to an offender while the offender is incarcerated for another offense or after the offender is released from incarceration.

(d) Once the court requires participation in a treatment program, the court may require any offender who is reasonably able to do so to contribute a specified amount to the cost of the offender's treatment program and shall impose such amount as a fine to be collected by the court and paid to a treatment fund maintained by the agency.

(2) Subsection (1)(b) of this section does not apply to any person found guilty of possession of forty grams or less of marijuana under RCW 69.50.401(e).

(3) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to:

(a) Any offender who refuses to abide by the conditions of a required treatment plan; or

(b) Any offender who (i) has two separate convictions for simple drug possession offenses, including any convictions that have been set aside under section 5 of this act; (ii) has participated in two separate treatment programs pursuant to subsection (1) of this section; and (iii) is found by a court to be unamenable to treatment.

(4) Upon entering an order requiring the agency to provide a

treatment program under subsection (1) of this section, the court shall notify the agency, and the agency, at its sole discretion, shall prepare an individualized treatment plan and forward it to the court and the offender. Within seven days of receiving the treatment plan, the court shall order the offender to participate in a treatment program specified in the individualized treatment plan.

(5) No treatment plan required under subsection (1) of this section may exceed twelve months.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 4. MODIFICATION OR REVOCATION OF TREATMENT. (1) If, at any point during the course of the treatment plan, the treatment program provider notifies the agency that the offender is unalienable to the treatment being provided but may be amenable to other treatments or programs, the agency may modify the treatment plan.

(2) If, at any point during the course of the treatment plan, the treatment program provider notifies the agency that the offender is unamenable to the treatment being provided and the agency determines that the offender is unamenable to all other forms of treatment, the agency may move the court to revoke treatment. At the revocation hearing, the court shall hear all relevant testimony, including, if possible, the testimony, which may be telephonic, of at least one licensed physician trained and experienced in the field of substance abuse treatment, who has examined the offender. The court may revoke treatment if it finds that the grounds for revocation have been established by clear, cogent, and convincing proof. If treatment is revoked, the court may sentence the offender to incarceration pursuant to otherwise applicable law without regard to the provisions of this chapter.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 5. DISMISSAL OF CHARGES UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF TREATMENT. When an offender has completed a treatment program required under section 3 of this act, the agency shall notify the court that ordered the treatment program. Except as provided in section 3(3)(b) of this act, the court shall set aside the conviction and dismiss the indictment or information against the offender. The court records of the conviction may not be expunged.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 6. TREATMENT FUNDING. The legislature shall appropriate funds to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 7. PROGRAM AUTHORITY. (1) Consistent with RCW 70.96A.040, the agency shall establish by all appropriate means a broad range of approved prevention and treatment programs throughout the state in order to ensure a continuum of prevention and treatment services for persons convicted of simple drug possession offenses.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the agency may authorize and regulate drug treatment programs based in hospitals and physicians' offices providing diverse medical services using medically established best practices for medical drug treatment and request any required licenses from agencies of the federal government.

(3) The agency shall have the authority given the department under chapter 70.96A RCW to administer the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 8. RCW 69.50.401 and 1998 c 290 s 1 and 1998 c 82 s 2 are

each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as authorized by this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to manufacture, deliver, or possess with intent to manufacture or deliver, a controlled substance.

(1) Any person who violates this subsection with respect to:

(i) a controlled substance classified in Schedule I or II which is a narcotic drug or flunitrazepam classified in Schedule IV, is guilty of a crime and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than ten years, or (A) fined not more than twenty-five thousand dollars if the crime involved less than two kilograms of the drug, or both such imprisonment and fine; or (B) if the crime involved two or more kilograms of the drug, then fined not more than one hundred thousand dollars for the first two kilograms and not more than fifty dollars for each gram in excess of two kilograms, or both such imprisonment and fine;

(ii) amphetamine or methamphetamine, is guilty of a crime and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than ten years, or (A) fined not more than twenty-five thousand dollars if the crime involved less than two kilograms of the drug, or both such imprisonment and fine; or (B) if the crime involved two or more kilograms of the drug, then fined not more than one hundred thousand dollars for the first two kilograms and not more than fifty dollars for each gram in excess of two kilograms, or both such imprisonment and fine. Three thousand dollars of the fine may not be suspended. As collected, the first three thousand dollars of the fine must be deposited with the law enforcement agency having responsibility for cleanup of laboratories, sites, or substances used in the manufacture of the methamphetamine. The fine moneys deposited with that law enforcement agency must be used for such clean-up cost;

(iii) any other controlled substance classified in Schedule I, II, or III, is guilty of a crime and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than five years, fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or both;

(iv) a substance classified in Schedule IV, except flunitrazepam, is guilty of a crime and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than five years, fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or both;

(v) a substance classified in Schedule V, is guilty of a crime and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than five years, fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

(b) Except as authorized by this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to create, deliver, or possess a counterfeit substance.

(1) Any person who violates this subsection with respect to:

(i) a counterfeit substance classified in Schedule I or II which is a narcotic drug, or flunitrazepam classified in Schedule IV, is guilty of a crime and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than ten years, fined not more than twenty-five thousand dollars, or both;

(ii) a counterfeit substance which is methamphetamine, is guilty of a crime and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than ten years, fined not more than twenty-five thousand dollars, or both;

(iii) any other counterfeit substance classified in Schedule I, II, or III, is guilty of a crime and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than five years, fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or both;

(iv) a counterfeit substance classified in Schedule IV, except flunitrazepam, is guilty of a crime and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than five years, fined not more than ten

thousand dollars, or both;

(v) a counterfeit substance classified in Schedule V, is guilty of a crime and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than five years, fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

(c) It is unlawful, except as authorized in this chapter and chapter 69.41 RCW, for any person to offer, arrange, or negotiate for the sale, gift, delivery, dispensing, distribution, or administration of a controlled substance to any person and then sell, give, deliver, dispense, distribute, or administer to that person any other liquid, substance, or material in lieu of such controlled substance. Any person who violates this subsection is guilty of a crime and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than five years, fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or both.

(d) It is unlawful for any person to possess a controlled substance unless the substance was obtained directly from, or pursuant to, a valid prescription or order of a practitioner while acting in the course of his or her professional practice, or except as otherwise authorized by this chapter. Any person who violates this subsection is guilty of a crime, and upon conviction may be imprisoned for not more than five years, fined not more than ten thousand dollars, or both, except as provided for in subsection (e) of this section.

(e) Except as provided for in subsection (a)(1)(iii) of this section any person found guilty of possession of forty grams or less of marihuana shall be guilty of a ({{- misdemeanor -}}) {+ class 2 civil infraction under chapter 7.80 RCW, and civil fines assessed shall be deposited in a treatment fund maintained by the division of alcohol and substance abuse +}.

(f) It is unlawful to compensate, threaten, solicit, or in any other manner involve a person under the age of eighteen years in a transaction unlawfully to manufacture, sell, or deliver a controlled substance. A violation of this subsection shall be punished as a class C felony punishable in accordance with RCW 9A.20.021.

This section shall not apply to offenses defined and punishable under the provisions of RCW 69.50.410.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 9. CODIFICATION. Sections 1 through 7 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 70 RCW.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE--PROSPECTIVE APPLICATION. This act takes effect July 1, 2001. This act applies prospectively only and not retroactively. It applies only to crimes committed on or after July 1, 2001.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 11. CAPTIONS. Captions used in this act are not part of the law.

{+ NEW SECTION. +} Sec. 12. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

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