

2020 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
CJ	24	A	1

Budget Action Title: Request that LAW report on expanding prefilng diversion opportunities to those over age 25

Ongoing: No

Primary Sponsor: Lorena González

Council Members:

Staff Analyst: Carlos Lugo

Date		Total	LH	BH	KS	AP	DJ	MO	SB	TM	LG
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) requests a report from the City Attorney's Office (LAW) addressing a recommendation made by the Seattle Reentry Workgroup on expanding prefilng diversion opportunities for individuals age 25 and older. Specifically, this SLI requests that LAW evaluate the staffing, costs, and additional resources that would be required to:

- (1) Expand the current young adult prefilng diversion program to serve individuals over the age of 25 while maintaining other eligibility criteria, such as type of crime; or
- (2) Create a new prefilng diversion program for individuals over the age of 25 with different criteria, such as expanding the type of eligible crimes.

LAW's report should include its recommendation on which option the City should pursue. The report shall be submitted to the Council, the Chair of the Gender Equity, Safe Communities and New Americans Committee (or successor committee), and the Director of Council Central Staff by May 15, 2020.

Background:

In December 2015, the City Council established a Prisoner and Community Corrections Re-entry Workgroup (sometimes referred to as the Seattle Reentry Workgroup) to coordinate and strengthen the City's efforts to assist the reentry process for people returning from incarceration (Resolution 31637). The Seattle Reentry Workgroup included representatives from community organizations, individuals living with criminal histories, as well as King County departmental staff (Public Defense and Community & Human Services) and City of Seattle staff (Seattle Municipal Court, City Council, Executive departments, and the City Attorney's Office).

As part of its mandate, the Seattle Reentry Workgroup was tasked with developing a set of policies, ordinances, strategies, or programs that the City can implement to facilitate reentry and remove unnecessary barriers to employment, housing, and other benefits. The Seattle Reentry Workgroup released its final report in October 2018.

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Responsible Council Committee(s):

Gender Equity, Safe Communities, New Americans & Education

Date Due to Council:

May 15, 2020