

**The SGC Legislative Committee would like to set up a conference call for the full commission for next Tuesday, 3/15 at noon.
Call number is 1-800-704-9804 code 778761#.**

There is a new sentence reduction bill (SB 5866) sponsored by Kline and Hargrove based on the WSIPP cost-benefit model. It applies only to those in DOC custody and proposes sentence reductions of 120 days for low risk, 90 days for moderate risk, and 60 days for high non violent. It excludes murder 1 and 2, sex offenders, LWOP, SSOSA, DOSA, and high violent. Fifty percent of the savings would be invested in evidence-based programs. Here's the bill:
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2011-12/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5866.pdf>

It isn't set for a hearing yet, but we'd like to have a full vote of the commission on the bill and additional input. Here are some points the leg committee discussed this morning:

- Doesn't contain a sunset date
- Truth-in-sentencing concerns-may be less of an issue if we have a pre-sentence risk-assessment.
- In-line with state's policy to utilize risk-assessments to drive supervision and other corrections policy
- Savings-Average DOC population (Oct 09-Sept 10) is 41% high violent, 20% high non-violent, 18% moderate, and 20% low (many of these in for sex offenses and murder 1 & 2), so prob. less than half DOC pop. would be eligible for a reduction. We'll have a fiscal note by the end of the week.
- Local practice/discretionary factors affecting savings-do defendants start asking for and receiving exceptional sentences of a yr and a day?
- Regardless of whether the SGC votes to support or oppose, we could offer to take on an overhaul of the guidelines, or suggest that it be added to the bill.