

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of SB 5695

Concerning the Development of a Juvenile Special Sex Offender Disposition Alternative Treatment Court
(2017-2018 Legislative Sessions)

Evidence indicates that SB 5695 has the potential to reduce the burden of negative collateral consequences associated with sex offender registration, such as losing employment and housing, which in turn has the potential to improve health outcomes. However, data also indicate that SB 5695 has the potential to worsen health disparities by race/ethnicity.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsors: Senators Darneille and Hunt

Summary of Bill:

- Authorizes counties to establish and operate juvenile special sex offender disposition alternative (SSODA) treatment courts.
- Establishes eligibility requirements for participation in SSODA treatment court including being age fifteen or younger at the time the sex offense was committed, no previous conviction of a sex offense or a serious violent offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030, and found by the court to be amenable to sex offender treatment.
- Establishes that prior to being admitted into the treatment court the juvenile must, among other requirements, stipulate to the admissibility of the facts in the police report, and be found guilty by the court.
- Establishes that following these required actions, the court shall defer entry of an order of disposition pending consideration for admission and participation in the SSODA treatment court, and waive sex offender registration during the pendency of the case.
- Requires the creation of an individualized plan upon admission to juvenile treatment court that includes a number of specific components.
- Establishes that upon successful completion of the requirements of the SSODA treatment program, any convictions in the case shall be vacated and all charges in the case dismissed with prejudice.
- Provides that a juvenile may only be admitted to a SSODA treatment court one time and must complete the treatment court requirements by the time the offender turns twenty-one years old.
- Requires that if a juvenile fails to enter treatment court, or fails to meet the requirements and is dismissed from the program, the court shall enter an order of disposition per RCW 13.40.0357 and order the juvenile to register as a sex offender.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence regarding the provisions in SB 5695:

- Strong evidence that waiving the sex offender registration requirement for juveniles participating in SSODA treatment court will likely reduce the burden of negative collateral consequences associated with sex offender registration, such as losing employment and housing.
- Very strong evidence that reducing the burden of negative collateral consequences associated with sex offender registration, such as losing employment and housing, will likely improve physical and mental health outcomes.
- Very strong evidence that SB 5695 has the potential to worsen health disparities by race/ethnicity. Relevant data is explored in further detail in the full Health Impact Review.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full Health Impact Review:

<http://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2017-16-SB5695.pdf>

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