

THE YOUTH EQUALITY AND REINTEGRATION ACT (THE YEAR ACT)

ESSB 5564

THIS IS THE YEAR FOR EQUALITY IN JUVENILE RECORDS REFORM



"I want to earn a life of living instead of a life expecting to die..."

— Solinuu Leae, youth

Key Reforms:

◆ Record Sealing

- ◆ Youth are now eligible for record sealing upon completion of community supervision, release from confinement, and full payment of restitution to victims (if any is owed)

◆ Legal Financial Obligations

- ◆ Prohibits creation of local fees, fines against youthful offenders
- ◆ Eliminates most non-restitution LFOs
- ◆ Reduces interest rate on LFOs to zero
- ◆ DNA collection fee can only be charged one time
- ◆ VPA fee can only be assessed in limited circumstances
- ◆ Courts may modify or relieve youth of LFOs and/or interest for good cause shown, including ability to pay, and courts must consider time in detention and other debts owed

◆ Restitution

- ◆ Reduces interest rate on restitution to zero
- ◆ Courts may order youth independently — rather than jointly and severally liable for restitution amounts
- ◆ Courts may modify restitution amounts for good cause shown, including ability to pay
- ◆ Courts may order community service in lieu of restitution with permission and input from victim



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