



CERTIFICATE OF RESTORATION OF OPPORTUNITY HB 2399

Problem:

Almost 8,000 people are released from prison in Washington each year. Many are ineligible for employment opportunities even after they have served their sentence and reestablished themselves in their community. **There are currently over 90 career paths that may be closed to people reentering society.** These occupations range from commercial fishing to substance abuse counselor and barber to athletic trainer.

Solution:

Provide a process for people to demonstrate to the judge that sentenced them how they have changed lives and taken responsibility for their past. The judge would then sign a Certificates of Restoration of Opportunity (CROP) for qualified people.

A CROP would:

- Build safer and healthier communities through increased employment opportunities and reduced recidivism.
- Provide an opportunity to overcome occupational disqualifications.
- Provide reliable evidence of an applicant's changed circumstances for employers, housing providers and licensing agencies.

Ten other states have a similar process - AZ, CA, CT, HI, IL, IA, NJ, NY, NC, and OH. New York's process has been in place for 40 years.

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