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Governor



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To the Honorable Speaker and Members,
The House of Representatives of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning, without my approval as to Sections 1 and 3, Engrossed House Bill No. 3261 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to strengthening the review process by the indeterminate sentence review board by adding two members to the board and allowing victims to provide input at board hearings involving offenders sentenced under RCW 9.94A.712."

The Indeterminate Sentencing Review Board (ISRB) is experiencing an increased caseload with the 2001 addition of indeterminate sentencing for sex offenders. New board members will be needed in the future. However, they are not critically needed at this time. In order for the ISRB to run efficiently with its current and projected caseloads, its current staffing and technology limits need to be improved before it adds new board members.

An emergency clause is also unnecessary. Because it is already the practice of the ISRB to provide victims the ability to participate in its hearing process, victims will not be harmed by any delay in enactment. The ISRB is fully supportive of the amendment to Chapter 9.95.420 RCW, and has agreed to comply with the requirements of the amendment in the interim before this bill takes effect.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Sections 1 and 3 of Engrossed House Bill No. 3261.

With the exception of Sections 1 and 3, Engrossed House Bill No. 3261 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Christine O. Gregoire
Governor