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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 herewith, without my approval as to Sections 2 and 3, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1547 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to the deportation of criminal alien offenders."

Section 2 requires the Department of Corrections to provide written notice of rights in removal proceedings to all offenders in the department's custody subject to potential conditional release under this statute. Advising offenders of these rights is the responsibility of the federal government at the time removal proceedings are initiated.

Section 3 requires a court to advise a defendant that he or she may be subject to early release from custody for removal from the United States as a consequence of conviction and that the defendant may be able to contest a removal order. Current law and court practices and procedures provide defendants with adequate notice of potential deportation consequences of a plea of guilty.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Sections 2 and 3 of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1547.

With the exception of Sections 2 and 3 Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1547 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor