

HB 446 -- Work for Restitution

Sponsor: Guest

This bill establishes the Work for Restitution Program within the Department of Corrections. Courts are required to order nonviolent offenders to pay restitution to their crime victims as a condition of probation. In addition, the Board of Probation and Parole must order restitution as part of any early release. After paying full restitution to each crime victim, the offender must then pay an equal amount to each victim as a rehabilitation fee. Offenders must work 12 hours per day, seven days per week, until all fees have been paid. No offender can be released from supervision until all fees have been paid. Wages paid in the program cannot exceed the federal minimum wage, and offenders in the program will not be considered employees. The department must provide annual reports on the effectiveness and financial impact of the program.