
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 3187

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By House Early Learning & Children's Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Pettigrew, Haler, Hunter, Kagi, Schual-Berke, Appleton, Loomis, Sullivan, Dickerson, Green, Lantz, Hudgins, Simpson, Darneille, McIntire, Roberts, Kenney, Wood, Santos, and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to postadoption supports for children adopted from
2 foster care; adding new sections to chapter 74.13 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that children's
6 histories of abuse and neglect and aspects of their foster care
7 experiences significantly impact their needs even after they are
8 adopted and achieve permanent placements. The number of children being
9 adopted from the foster care system has increased over the last decade.
10 Policy changes also have resulted in more children who are eligible for
11 adoption but who have not yet been adopted. The legislature also finds
12 that adoption disruption occurs at a rate of approximately ten to
13 sixteen percent of adoptions. The risk of adoptions being terminated
14 is greatest for older children and within the first few years of the
15 adoption. Risk factors associated with adoption disruption and
16 termination include a variety of child-related factors and parent-
17 related factors. The legislature intends to promote postadoption and
18 postpermanency services to children and families in order to support

1 families, to reduce adoption disruptions and terminations, and to
2 increase the number of potential adoptive families.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose,
6 the department shall contract for an information and referral services
7 provider to support families with children adopted out of foster care.
8 The contract shall include components for statewide support of families
9 who may be seeking adoption-specific resources and information,
10 including referrals for individual or family counseling, support
11 groups, or community services; a lending library; and relevant training
12 programs. The information and referrals must be provided by an entity
13 knowledgeable and experienced in adoption issues. The contract shall
14 specify that the service provider must serve as the central point of
15 contact for Washington families seeking adoption-related information
16 and referral services. The department also shall develop a simple
17 process for voluntary sharing of contact information for adoptive
18 parents for the purpose of facilitating periodic surveys by the
19 contracted information and referral services provider about the service
20 and support needs of families who have adopted children from foster
21 care.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
23 to read as follows:

24 Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose,
25 the department shall contract for education advocacy services for
26 children adopted out of foster care. Advocacy services may be designed
27 to provide support and guidance for parents to navigate the education
28 system, and may include training, information, referral, consultation,
29 and direct advocacy designed to promote the educational success of the
30 child.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
32 to read as follows:

33 The department shall provide outreach to parents of children
34 adopted out of foster care and encourage adoptive parents to seek an
35 annual assessment of the functioning of the adoptive child with the

1 family to determine if there are services needed to help maintain or
2 strengthen the adoptive placement. The annual assessment encouraged
3 under this section is intended to help families to build strong
4 relationships, to recognize and enhance their strengths, and to
5 understand and address adoption-related dynamics.

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