
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1113

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By House Committee on Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Haugen, Ferguson, Basich, Riley, Winsley, Wang, Brekke, Dellwo, R. Meyers, Van Luven, Scott, Hargrove and Phillips).

Read first time February 18, 1991.

1 AN ACT Relating to the source of funding for costs of legal
2 representation in cases relating to dependency of a child and the
3 termination of a parent and child relationship; adding a new section to
4 chapter 13.34 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 13.34 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 The legislature finds that counties have historically assumed the
9 burden of funding the counsel and guardians ad litem required to
10 represent indigent parents, guardians, legal custodians, and children
11 in child dependency and termination proceedings. However, the volume
12 of such cases is driven by legislative mandate and state agency action.
13 Because the legislature finds that the shared goals of counties and the
14 state will be advanced, the state agrees to accept fiscal
15 responsibility for twenty-five percent of the cost of representation by

1 counsel and guardians ad litem and related expenses required to
2 represent indigent parents, guardians, legal custodians, and children
3 in child dependency and termination proceedings after July 1, 1992, and
4 to accept fiscal responsibility for fifty percent of these costs after
5 July 1, 1993.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The office of the administrator for
7 the courts shall develop a proposal to address the costs of legal
8 representation and expenses reasonably related to such representation
9 for indigent parents, guardians, legal custodians, and children in
10 dependency and termination hearings under chapter 13.34 RCW. The
11 proposal shall address the increased dependency and termination filings
12 by the state under chapter 13.34 RCW and the effect of this increase on
13 indigent defense costs. The proposal shall recommend strategies to
14 ensure than an equitable method of paying for indigent defense costs in
15 dependency and termination proceedings is established.

16 (2) The office of the administrator for the courts shall present
17 the proposal required under subsection (1) of this section to the
18 appropriate standing committees of the legislature by December 6, 1991.