

**SENATE BILL 5201**

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**State of Washington**

**52nd Legislature**

**1991 Regular Session**

**By** Senators L. Smith, Stratton and Talmadge.

Read first time January 23, 1991. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to out-of-home care for older children; amending  
2 RCW 13.34.030; adding new sections to chapter 13.34 RCW; creating a new  
3 section; and making an appropriation.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 13.34.030 and 1988 c 176 s 901 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 For purposes of this chapter:

8 (1) "Child" and "juvenile" means any individual under the age of  
9 eighteen years;

10 (2) "Dependent child" means any child:

11 (a) Who has been abandoned; that is, where the child's parent,  
12 guardian, or other custodian has evidenced either by statement or  
13 conduct, a settled intent to forego, for an extended period, all  
14 parental rights or all parental responsibilities despite an ability to  
15 do so;

1 (b) Who is abused or neglected as defined in chapter 26.44 RCW by  
2 a person legally responsible for the care of the child;

3 (c) Who has no parent, guardian, or custodian capable of adequately  
4 caring for the child, such that the child is in circumstances which  
5 constitute a danger of substantial damage to the child's psychological  
6 or physical development; or

7 (d) Who has a developmental disability, as defined in RCW  
8 71A.10.020 and whose parent, guardian, or legal custodian together with  
9 the department determines that services appropriate to the child's  
10 needs can not be provided in the home. However, (a), (b), and (c) of  
11 this subsection may still be applied if other reasons for removal of  
12 the child from the home exist.

13 (3) "Permanency planning" means the process by which a child is  
14 diagnostically assessed and provided treatment services based on his or  
15 her unique individual and developmental needs to facilitate the  
16 attainment of successful maturity as an adult. Permanency planning  
17 should occur in the least restrictive setting appropriate and available  
18 and with minimum placement disruption.

19 (4) "Transitional living programs" means programs that provide  
20 shelter and services designed to promote transition to self-sufficient  
21 living, development of independent living skills, and to minimize the  
22 incidence of long-term dependency on social services.

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. Out-of-home placement services become  
24 necessary whenever voluntary or court-ordered out-of-home placement of  
25 a child is imminent or has already occurred. In striving to meet the  
26 objective of permanency for every child, a continuum of services must  
27 encompass the full range of possible alternatives. This includes  
28 providing family support services, family counseling, in-home care,  
29 respite care, foster care, specialized foster care, adoption, group

1 home care, residential treatment, and transitional living services.  
2 The continuum of care is severely lacking in providing transitional  
3 living services.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 13.34 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 The department of social and health services shall contract, using  
7 the request for proposal process, with independent qualified agencies  
8 to provide transitional living services to minors.

9 Persons sixteen to eighteen years old or sixteen years old until  
10 emancipation are eligible for transitional living services. The  
11 population eligible for transitional living services are those for whom  
12 returning to their parents' or guardians' home is not possible and for  
13 whom foster care or adoption is not likely or appropriate. An  
14 assessment shall be done of each minor, including the minor's family  
15 situation, before receiving transitional living services. The  
16 assessment shall include input from the agency that would be providing  
17 the transitional living services to the minor, the agency currently  
18 providing services to the minor, and the caseworker for the minor. The  
19 assessment shall seek to determine whether the most appropriate plan  
20 for the minor is preparation for emancipation. The assessment shall  
21 also determine whether the minor is motivated to participate in a  
22 transitional living program that requires significant commitment from  
23 the minor.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 13.34 RCW  
25 to read as follows:

26 Transitional living services should be tailored to meet the needs  
27 of the particular minor. A transitional living program should include,  
28 but is not limited to, the following:

1 (1) Educational services, including basic literacy and  
2 computational skills training, either in local alternative or public  
3 high schools or in a high school equivalency program that leads to  
4 obtaining a high school equivalency degree;

5 (2) Assistance and counseling related to obtaining vocational  
6 training or higher education, job readiness, job search assistance, and  
7 placement programs;

8 (3) Health services including pre and post-natal care;

9 (4) Counseling and instruction in life skills such as money  
10 management, home management, consumer skills, parenting, health care,  
11 access to community resources, and transportation and housing options;

12 (5) Individual and group counseling with emphasis on issues of  
13 avoiding abuse, sexual abuse, prostitution, drug and alcohol abuse,  
14 depression, motivation, self-esteem, and interpersonal and social  
15 skills training and development;

16 (6) Recognizing and facilitating long-term relationships with  
17 significant adults; and

18 (7) Establishing networks with federal agencies and state and local  
19 organizations such as the department of labor, employment and training  
20 administration programs including the job training partnership act  
21 which administers private industry councils and the job corps;  
22 vocational rehabilitation; and volunteer programs.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of ..... dollars, or as  
24 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium  
25 ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the department of social  
26 and health services for the purposes of this act.