

4

5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the personal
8 and societal costs of teenage childbearing are substantial. Teen
9 parents are less likely to finish high school and more likely to depend
10 upon public assistance than women who delay childbearing until
11 adulthood.

12 (2) The legislature intends that an effort be made to ensure that
13 each teenage parent who is a public assistance recipient live in a
14 setting that increases the likelihood that the teen parent will
15 complete high school and achieve economic independence.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.12 RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 (1) As part of the orientation and assessment conducted pursuant to
19 RCW 74.25.020, the department shall assist the family of the recipient
20 in determining, in the following order of priority, the most
21 appropriate living situation that will best ensure the safety and well-
22 being for each recipient of aid to families with dependent children who
23 is receiving those benefits as a head of household and is under age
24 eighteen. Appropriate living situations may include, but are not
25 limited to:

- 26 (a) The parent's home;
- 27 (b) The home of a relative;
- 28 (c) A group living situation with adult supervision and guidance;
- 29 (d) Living independently; and
- 30 (e) Payment of the recipient's grant to another as provided in RCW
31 74.12.250.

32 (2) In conducting the assessment, the department shall consider all
33 relevant factors, including but not limited to:

- 34 (a) Whether the recipient is enrolled in and attending school;
- 35 (b) Whether the recipient is employed;

1 (c) The situation in the home of the recipient's parents, including
2 but not limited to, whether there is substance abuse or domestic
3 violence in the home and the adequacy of the dwelling; and

4 (d) Whether there is a history of physical, emotional, or sexual
5 abuse of the recipient by a person living in or frequenting the
6 recipient's parents' home.

7 (3) If, as a result of the assessment, the department becomes aware
8 of a recipient's need for other services that will help the recipient
9 complete high school or achieve economic independence, and be an
10 effective parent, the department shall make every effort to link the
11 recipient with the services, including parenting classes."

12 **HB 1777** - S COMM AMD

13 By Committee on Health & Human Services

14

15 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "recipients;" strike the
16 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new section to chapter
17 74.12 RCW; and creating a new section."

--- END ---