
HOUSE BILL 1777

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Karahalios, Cooke, Leonard, Edmondson, Eide, Wolfe, Jones, Jacobsen, Brough, Quall, Mastin, Roland and Lemmon

Read first time 02/08/93. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to teenage public assistance recipients; adding a
2 new section to chapter 74.12 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

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

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

15 (1) As part of the orientation and assessment conducted pursuant to
16 RCW 74.25.020, the department shall determine the most appropriate
17 living situation for each recipient of aid to families with dependent
18 children who is receiving those benefits as a head of household and is

1 under age eighteen. Appropriate living situations may include, but are
2 not limited to:

3 (a) The parent's home;

4 (b) The home of a relative;

5 (c) A group living situation with adult supervision and guidance;

6 (d) Living independently; and

7 (e) Payment of the recipient's grant to another as provided in RCW
8 74.12.250.

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

11 (a) Whether the recipient is enrolled in and attending school;

12 (b) Whether the recipient is employed;

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

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

19 (3) If, as a result of the assessment, the department becomes aware
20 of a recipient's need for other services that will help the recipient
21 complete high school or achieve economic independence, the department
22 shall make every effort to link the recipient with the services.

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