
HOUSE BILL 2381

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Leonard and King

Read first time 01/14/94. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to children with severe medical problems; adding a
2 new section to chapter 74.09 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that children with
5 severe medical problems receive care in hospitals which can exceed one
6 hundred thousand dollars per month. The legislature further finds that
7 the same child can be cared for at a cost of twelve thousand dollars
8 per month at the Ashley House facility in King county, Washington. The
9 legislature further finds that a component of the rapid rise in health
10 care costs is unnecessary or inappropriate care provided in hospitals
11 when less high-quality, less-expensive care is available in the
12 community. The legislature further finds that the Pediatric Interim
13 Care Facility in King county, Washington was established in 1990
14 through legislative action to also care for children with severe
15 medical needs who do not require hospital care. The legislature
16 further finds that through legislative action children received care in
17 a more appropriate and home-like setting and substantial savings were
18 realized by avoiding the inappropriate expenditure of limited state
19 resources.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 The department of social and health services shall contract with
4 out-of-home care providers serving children with severe medical
5 problems prospectively to ensure the availability of beds for children
6 in need and to conserve scarce state funds through minimizing the
7 inappropriate and unnecessary care these children currently receive in
8 hospitals when that level of care is unnecessary. The department shall
9 establish appropriate referral procedures to ensure the timely transfer
10 of children with severe medical problems from hospitals to out-of-home
11 service providers licensed for their care.

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