
HOUSE BILL 2698

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Reams, Stevens and Fuhrman

Read first time 01/21/94. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to the department of social and health services;
2 and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the department of
5 social and health services is required to fulfill an immense number of
6 responsibilities. Due to this, the department of social and health
7 services has grown to an unmanageable and unwieldy bureaucracy that
8 cannot function as an effective unit. The legislature also finds that
9 the department of social and health services duplicates many tasks that
10 are the responsibility of the employment security department, the
11 department of personnel, and the department of labor and industries.
12 It is the intent of the legislature to divide the department of social
13 and health services and eliminate the executive division including but
14 not limited to the secretary; the administrative control unit; the
15 office of legislative, public, and constituent relations; and the
16 office of public affairs. The elimination of the executive division
17 will greatly reduce duplicative administrative functions. This will
18 reduce the costs of providing social and health services, it will allow
19 the state to maximize scarce resources, and the people of the state of

1 Washington will be better served. The legislature intends to provide
2 a single source to supply support services. Smaller, more efficient
3 direct service departments will direct and rely on the central
4 department to provide them with support services while concentrating
5 their efforts on providing direct services to the public. Inasmuch as
6 the department of corrections was once a part of the department of
7 social and health services, it is the intent of the legislature that
8 the department of corrections rely on the single support services
9 department created by this act.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** There is created the department of central
11 support services; the department of income and medical assistance; the
12 department of long-term care; the department of children, youth, and
13 family services; and the department of developmental disability and
14 vocational rehabilitation. The departments shall be located in the
15 current facilities of the department of social and health services.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of social and health services
17 is abolished and its powers, duties, and functions are transferred to
18 the appropriate department as divided by the transition team
19 established under section 10 of this act. All references to the
20 secretary or the department of social and health services in the
21 Revised Code of Washington shall be construed to mean the director of
22 the appropriate department, or the appropriate department, created
23 under section 2 of this act.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** All reports, documents, surveys, books,
25 records, files, papers, or written material in the possession of the
26 department of social and health services shall be delivered to the
27 custody of the transition team created under section 10 of this act to
28 be transferred to the appropriate department. All cabinets, furniture,
29 office equipment, motor vehicles, and other tangible property employed
30 by the department of social and health services shall be made available
31 to the transition team to be transferred to the appropriate department.
32 All funds, credits, or other assets held by the department of social
33 and health services shall be assigned to the appropriate department by
34 the transition team.

1 Any appropriations made to the department of social and health
2 services shall, on the effective date of this section, be transferred
3 and credited to the appropriate department by the transition team.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** All employees of the department of social
5 and health services are transferred to the jurisdiction of the
6 transition team established under section 10 of this act to be
7 transferred to the appropriate department. All employees classified
8 under chapter 41.06 RCW, the state civil service law, are assigned to
9 their respective departments to perform their usual duties upon the
10 same terms as formerly, without any loss of rights, subject to any
11 action that may be appropriate thereafter in accordance with the laws
12 and rules governing state civil service.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** All rules and all pending business before
14 the department of social and health services shall be continued and
15 acted upon by the appropriate department created under section 2 of
16 this act. All existing contracts and obligations shall remain in full
17 force and shall be performed by the appropriate department.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The transfer of the powers, duties,
19 functions, and personnel of the department of social and health
20 services shall not affect the validity of any act performed prior to
21 the effective date of this section.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If apportionments of budgeted funds are
23 required because of the transfers directed by sections 4 through 7 of
24 this act, the director of financial management shall certify the
25 apportionments to the agencies affected, the state auditor, and the
26 state treasurer. Each of these shall make the appropriate transfer and
27 adjustments in funds and appropriation accounts and equipment records
28 in accordance with the certification.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Nothing contained in sections 3 through 8 of
30 this act may be construed to alter any existing collective bargaining
31 unit or the provisions of any existing collective bargaining agreement
32 until the agreement has expired or until the bargaining unit has been
33 modified by action of the Washington personnel resources board as
34 provided by law.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** (1) By July 1, 1994, the governor shall
2 appoint a transition team to direct the details of administration of
3 this act. The team shall consist of representatives from the office of
4 financial management, the legislature, and the divisions of the
5 department of social and health services.

6 (2) The transition team shall divide up the functions of the
7 department of social and health services into the new departments set
8 out under section 2 of this act after the effective date of this
9 section as follows:

10 (a) All support services including but not limited to personnel,
11 financial, administration, auditing, comptroller, constituent
12 relations, and legal services of the attorney general's office shall
13 remain with the department of central support services; and

14 (b) All personnel, funds, books, documents, records, papers, files,
15 equipment, or other tangible property required for the direct provision
16 of services to the public shall be transferred to the department to be
17 responsible for the services.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** The department of corrections shall
19 eliminate all functions that duplicate services offered by the
20 department of central support services including but not limited to
21 personnel, financial, administration, auditing, comptrolling, and legal
22 services of the attorney general's office. The department of central
23 support services shall supply all support services to the department of
24 corrections.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Any cost savings from elimination of the
26 executive division of the department of social and health services and
27 the elimination of duplicative functions of the department of
28 corrections and the department of central support services which occurs
29 as a result of this act shall be credited to the department of
30 children, youth, and family services.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The transition team set out under section
32 10 of this act shall, by November 15, 1994, submit a plan and necessary
33 implementation legislation to the legislature for the division of the
34 department of social and health services so that the new agencies will
35 be operating by July 1, 1995.

1 The plan shall include, but is not limited to, the following
2 elements:

3 (1) Strategies for dividing the existing functions and
4 responsibilities of the department into the appropriate new agency
5 including a strategic plan for each new agency created in section 2 of
6 this act that includes implementation steps, evaluation measures, and
7 methods for collaboration among programs;

8 (2) Recommendations for changes in existing programs and functions
9 of the department of social and health services; and

10 (3) Implementation steps necessary to bring about operation of the
11 new agencies.

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