
HOUSE BILL 1901

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Mastin, Cooke, Kessler, Boldt, Tokuda, Quall, McDonald, Sherstad, Parlette, Cooper, McMorris, Dyer, Chandler, Backlund, Blalock, Kastama, Sullivan, Mulliken, Linville and O'Brien

Read first time 02/12/97. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing vouchers for pregnant minors; adding
2 new sections to chapter 74.12 RCW; creating new sections; and declaring
3 an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that due to changes in
6 federal and state law the number of pregnant teenagers who need
7 alternative types of residences when they are unable to live with their
8 families is increasing. The legislature also finds that young pregnant
9 women can benefit from a structured environment that provides the
10 opportunity to learn essential parenting and life skills.

11 Therefore the legislature recognizes the need to increase the
12 number of adult-supervised homes for young pregnant women and assist in
13 the cost of living in adult-supervised homes.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
15 throughout sections 3 through 5 of this act unless the context clearly
16 requires otherwise.

17 (1) "Adult-supervised supportive living arrangement" means a
18 private family setting or other living arrangement, not including a

1 public institution, that is maintained as a family setting, as
2 evidenced by the assumption of responsibility for the care and control
3 of the minor parent and dependent child or the provision of supportive
4 services such as counseling, guidance, or supervision.

5 (2) "Department" means the department of social and health
6 services.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department shall operate a living
8 assistance program that provides vouchers for pregnant unemancipated
9 minors who are otherwise unable to live with their parents, other
10 family members, or a legal guardian. The program shall provide
11 one-time vouchers that can be redeemed at state-approved
12 adult-supervised supportive living arrangements.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Adult-supervised supportive living
14 arrangements that qualify to participate in the program shall:

15 (1) Provide twenty-four hour per day adult supervision for minor
16 residents; and

17 (2) Provide a strong program component that actively engages minor
18 residents. Program components may include, but not be limited to,
19 parenting skills, job-readiness, and financial counseling.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The department shall actively seek to place
21 pregnant minors with faith-based organizations that have a history of
22 providing care for pregnant minors.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 through 5 of this act are each
24 added to chapter 74.12 RCW.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
26 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
27 June 30, 1997, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
28 void.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate
30 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
2 immediately.

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