

---

HOUSE BILL 1619

---

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives McDonald, Kagi, Boldt, Lovick, Tokuda, Wood, Clements, Carrell, D. Schmidt, Linville, Dickerson, O'Brien, Mielke, Kenney and Haigh

Read first time 02/01/1999. Referred to Committee on Children and Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to foster parents; amending RCW 74.14B.080;  
2 creating a new section; making an appropriation; providing an effective  
3 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that Washington  
6 state is experiencing a significant shortage of quality foster homes  
7 and that the majority of children entering the system are difficult to  
8 place due to their complex needs. The legislature intends to provide  
9 additional assistance to those families willing to serve as foster  
10 parents.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.14B.080 and 1991 c 283 s 2 are each amended to read  
12 as follows:

13 (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, the secretary of  
14 social and health services shall provide liability insurance to foster  
15 parents licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW. The coverage shall be for  
16 personal injury and property damage caused by foster parents or foster  
17 children that occurred while the children were in foster care. Such  
18 insurance shall cover acts of ordinary negligence but shall not cover

1 illegal conduct or bad faith acts taken by foster parents in providing  
2 foster care. Moneys paid from liability insurance for any claim are  
3 limited to the amount by which the claim exceeds the amount available  
4 to the claimant from any valid and collectible liability insurance.  
5 The liability insurance provided under this section shall reimburse  
6 foster parents for the replacement value of the item damaged or  
7 destroyed.

8 (2) The secretary of social and health services may purchase the  
9 insurance required in subsection (1) of this section or may choose a  
10 self-insurance method. The total moneys expended pursuant to this  
11 authorization shall not exceed (~~five hundred thousand~~) one million  
12 dollars per biennium. If the secretary elects a method of self-  
13 insurance, the expenditure shall include all administrative and staff  
14 costs. If the secretary elects a method of self-insurance, he or she  
15 may, by rule, place a limit on the maximum amount to be paid on each  
16 claim.

17 (3) Nothing in this section or RCW 4.24.590 is intended to modify  
18 the foster parent reimbursement plan in place on July 1, 1991.

19 (4) The liability insurance program shall be available by July 1,  
20 1991.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of two hundred ninety thousand  
22 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from  
23 the general fund to the department of social and health services for  
24 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, to carry out the purposes of  
25 section 2 of this act.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
27 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
28 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
29 July 1, 1999.

--- END ---