
HOUSE BILL 1667

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives McDonald, Kagi, Boldt, Tokuda, Ballasiotes and Dickerson

Read first time 03/01/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to foster parents; adding a new section to chapter
2 74.13 RCW; creating a new section; making an appropriation; providing
3 an effective 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 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 The department of social and health services, in concert with
14 community-based organizations, shall develop a plan for a comprehensive
15 respite care system for children and families. In developing the plan,
16 the department shall assess the current system, review available
17 research, evaluate program needs, and evaluate program models. The
18 comprehensive plan shall identify necessary and appropriate respite

1 services for families with children who are in foster care, for
2 adoptive families, for kinship placement families, and for families
3 that have children with alcohol or drug problems. The department shall
4 submit the plan to the appropriate committees of the senate and house
5 of representatives by December 31, 1999.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of seventy thousand dollars, or as
7 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general fund
8 to the department of social and health services for the fiscal year
9 ending June 30, 2000, to carry out the purposes of section 2 of this
10 act.

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

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