
HOUSE BILL 2709

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Tokuda, Talcott, D. Sommers, McIntire, Cairnes, Anderson, Ruderman, Mitchell, Delvin, Kagi and Kenney

Read first time 01/19/2000. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a foster parent retention pilot
2 program; creating new sections; making appropriations; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) Foster parents have little means to cope with sexually abused
7 children. There is no support for these children in the foster home
8 setting, contributing to the fact that seventy percent of these
9 children have multiple foster home placements;

10 (2) Two-thirds of the work of child protective services in
11 Washington state is linked with families that it sees repeatedly. The
12 families have cumulative risks such as drug abuse, domestic violence,
13 and mental illness. Sexual abuse of children in these families
14 frequently occurs;

15 (3) Many of our next generation's sexual predators are in foster
16 care today. These children have had severe and repeated early abuse,
17 are under age twelve, and move freely in schools and child care. The
18 division of children and family services reports that these children

1 have molested an average of five children while they are in foster
2 care; and

3 (4) In Pierce county alone, seventy-five of these children are now
4 in foster care. This pressures an already stressed foster care system,
5 and sets the stage for these children to enter into a lifetime of
6 sexually deviant behavior.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A foster parent retention pilot program is
8 established to retain foster parents who care for children who act out
9 sexually. The foster parent retention pilot program is to be
10 implemented under the division of children and family services'
11 contract and supervision. A contractor must demonstrate experience
12 providing in-home case management to regular division of children and
13 family services foster parents.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of one hundred sixty-five
15 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
16 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, from the general
17 fund to the division of children and family services to be used
18 according to the following schedule:

19 (a) One hundred twenty-two thousand dollars shall be used for
20 direct services under section 4(1) of this act; and

21 (b) Forty-three thousand dollars shall be used for evaluation of
22 the foster parent retention pilot program under section 4(2) of this
23 act.

24 (2) The sum of one hundred sixty-five thousand dollars, or as much
25 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending
26 June 30, 2001, from the general fund to the division of children and
27 family services for the purposes of this act.

28 (a) One hundred twenty-two thousand dollars shall be used for
29 direct services under section 4(1) of this act; and

30 (b) Forty-three thousand dollars shall be used for evaluation of
31 the foster parent retention pilot program under section 4(2) of this
32 act.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Under the foster parent retention pilot
34 program, foster parents who care for children who act out sexually will
35 receive:

36 (a) Emergency assistance; and

1 (b) Problem solving in the home and group training.

2 (2) By December 2001, the division of children and family services
3 shall prepare a presentation for an independent evaluation before the
4 appropriate committees of the legislature, which includes the
5 following:

6 (a) The retention rate of foster parents in the program as compared
7 to a comparable group of foster parents who are not in the program;

8 (b) Incidents of sexual molestation of children by children;

9 (c) An estimate of the amount of money saved because of the foster
10 parent retention pilot program; and

11 (d) Recommendations by the division of children and family services
12 on whether a foster parent retention program should be continued.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
14 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
15 June 30, 2001, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
16 void.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act expires January 1, 2002.

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