
HOUSE BILL 2925

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Kagi, Constantine, Kenney, Veloria, Edwards, Wood, Haigh and Santos

Read first time 01/24/2000. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to using funds to improve the legal representation
2 of indigent parents and children; and amending RCW 2.70.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.70.020 and 1996 c 221 s 3 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The director, under the supervision and direction of the advisory
7 committee, shall:

8 (1) Administer all criminal appellate indigent defense services;

9 (2) Submit a biennial budget for all costs related to state
10 appellate indigent defense;

11 (3) Establish administrative procedures, standards, and guidelines
12 for the program including a cost-efficient system that provides for
13 recovery of costs;

14 (4) Recommend criteria and standards for determining and verifying
15 indigency. In recommending criteria for determining indigency, the
16 director shall compile and review the indigency standards used by other
17 state agencies and shall periodically submit the compilation and report
18 to the legislature on the appropriateness and consistency of such
19 standards;

1 (5) Collect information regarding indigency cases funded by the
2 state and report annually to the legislature and the supreme court;

3 (6) Coordinate with the supreme court and the judges of each
4 division of the court of appeals to determine how attorney services
5 should be provided;

6 (7) Administer and distribute funds appropriated for representation
7 of indigent parents and children in dependency and termination cases
8 brought under chapter 13.34 RCW. The funding shall be targeted to the
9 following tasks:

10 (a) Working with counsel and courts to reduce delays and
11 continuances in dependency and termination cases;

12 (b) Making reasonable funds available for necessary professional
13 services, including but not limited to expert and investigative
14 services;

15 (c) Developing standards of practice for counsel representing
16 children and indigent parents, guardians, and legal custodians in
17 dependency and termination cases;

18 (d) Ensuring parents, guardians, and legal custodians are screened
19 for indigency pursuant to chapter 10.101 RCW;

20 (e) Working with courts, defense counsel, and prosecuting counsel
21 to develop methods for establishing paternity among possible fathers at
22 the earliest possible date when paternity is at issue;

23 (f) Setting compensation levels for counsel representing parents,
24 guardians, legal custodians, and children in dependency and termination
25 caseloads that attract competent, skilled counsel, and provide for
26 reasonable caseloads;

27 (g) Developing training for dependency and termination defense
28 counsel.

29 The office of public defense shall not provide direct
30 representation of clients.

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