
SENATE BILL 5853

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Long, Hargrove, Brown, Thibaudeau, Prentice, Winsley and Costa

Read first time 02/12/1999. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to child care for children in homeless families;
2 adding a new section to chapter 74.13 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that: (1) Homeless
5 families with young children are at significant risk of being unable to
6 develop long-term economic independence; (2) children in such
7 situations are likely to experience immediate and future adverse
8 consequences due to potential instability in their living arrangements
9 and lack of access to services; and (3) homeless families with young
10 children are inadequately served in terms of access to child care and
11 that such inadequacy acts to impair the abilities of these families to
12 locate housing, employment, and other basic family needs. The
13 legislature intends to require the department of social and health
14 services to dedicate an effort to the development of a comprehensive,
15 research-based, integrated plan to expand the availability and delivery
16 of child care services to homeless families with children. The goals
17 of the plan shall be to increase the stability in the lives of
18 families, offer safe and nurturing places for children, and provide
19 expanded opportunities for economic independence.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) For purposes of this section:

4 (a) "Homeless family" means a family with children when the family:

5 (i) On a regular basis, lacks an ongoing and identifiable place of
6 occupancy intended for humans for more than seven consecutive days; and

7 (ii) lacks the resources to obtain and remain in such a place of
8 occupancy; and

9 (b) "Child" or "children" means a child or children under the age
10 of ten years.

11 (2) Not later than June 1, 2000, the secretary shall develop, and
12 present to the legislature and governor, a plan for determining the
13 need for child care services for children in homeless families and a
14 method for providing the child care services.

15 (3) The plan shall include the following, at a minimum:

16 (a) A determination, by age, of the number of children who are in
17 homeless families;

18 (b) A determination of the number of child care slots which are
19 dedicated to the children identified in this subsection;

20 (c) A determination of how many child care slots in addition to
21 those identified in (b) of this subsection are necessary to be
22 dedicated to children in homeless families to reasonably assure that
23 any homeless family which seeks child care slots and lacks the
24 resources to obtain the slots can obtain state-supported child care
25 while they are homeless. The dedication of such slots shall not result
26 in the loss of any child care slots for which state support is
27 available;

28 (d) A cost estimate for providing the slots identified in (c) of
29 this subsection.

30 (4) The plan shall assume that children in homeless families are
31 not eligible to continue in child care slots dedicated for children in
32 homeless families longer than thirty calendar days following the date
33 the family is no longer homeless.

34 (5) The plan shall assume that children in homeless families are
35 not eligible to continue in child care slots dedicated for children in
36 homeless families longer than twelve consecutive months.

1 (6) The secretary shall begin implementation of the plan not later
2 than July 1, 2001. Full implementation of the plan shall take place
3 not later than June 30, 2002.

--- END ---