
SENATE BILL 6166

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senator Fairley

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a department of work force services;
2 creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) The legislature finds that the
5 department of social and health services is inadequately responsive to
6 the needs of those it serves. Over the years, the department has grown
7 dysfunctionally large and unfocused. Citizen problems with the
8 department range from failure to return phone calls and provide answers
9 to questions regarding needed services, to serious endangerment of the
10 lives and safety of those the department was designed to protect. The
11 dysfunctionality of the department has resulted in tragedy for some
12 clients, and litigation for the state. Given the fact that the
13 department is responsible for those in our society least able to care
14 for themselves, including children, the frail, elderly and disabled,
15 and families struggling with poverty or abuse, it is imperative that
16 the state reevaluate the role of the department, and redesign state
17 agencies to better serve and protect Washington families.

18 (b) The legislature therefor intends that a new department be
19 created that is designed to help working families. The department of

1 work force services should consist of employment security functions,
2 combined with the WorkFirst program, and low-income child care. The
3 legislature intends that this realignment of essential state services
4 be used as an opportunity to dedicate state resources to helping
5 working families, those emerging from poverty, and children in need,
6 enabling the functions that remain in a separate, newly designed
7 department of social and health services to become more responsive and
8 focused upon the needs of clients.

9 (c) The governor shall propose a plan of reorganization, for
10 legislative consideration in a timely manner, in a collaborative effort
11 to make life better, safer, and more promising for Washingtonians in
12 need.

13 (2) By January 8, 2001, the governor shall submit a plan to the
14 legislature for creating a department of work force services to improve
15 and restructure the delivery of employment and welfare services,
16 including appropriate child care components.

17 (3) The goals of the plan are:

18 (a) Improved delivery of job and welfare services to Washington
19 residents;

20 (b) Improved efficiencies in administration of service delivery;

21 (c) Appropriate restructuring of public agencies and programs
22 primarily charged with direct or contractual delivery of job and
23 welfare services, in order to improve the assessment of the needs of
24 Washington residents and provide more timely and appropriate response
25 to such needs, with reduced duplication of effort and correction of
26 illogical or inconsistent placement of programs;

27 (d) A reexamination of the principles that were the foundation of
28 the department of social and health services, and whether those
29 principles remain operative in the structure of welfare, employment,
30 and human services delivery by the state; and

31 (e) Creation of a model of job and welfare delivery that
32 emphasizes:

33 (i) Ongoing positive outcomes, based upon performance measures;

34 (ii) Ease of public access to information and services;

35 (iii) Reliable review and analysis of efficiencies in agency
36 administrative structures; and

37 (iv) Accountability to the public and the legislature.

1 (4) This section expires January 31, 2001.

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