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SENATE BILL 6362

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Zarelli, Hargrove, Honeyford, Hochstatter, Johnson, Swecker and Stevens

Read first time 01/14/2000. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to making decisions about the removal and placement  
2 of foster children; and amending RCW 74.13.325 and 74.13.290.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.13.325 and 1997 c 272 s 3 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) Within available resources, the department shall increase the  
7 number of adoptive and foster families available to accept children  
8 through an intensive recruitment and retention program. The department  
9 shall contract with a private agency to coordinate foster care and  
10 adoptive home recruitment activities for the department and private  
11 agencies.

12 (2) Within the department, the division of licensed resources,  
13 children's administration, shall have primary responsibility for the  
14 recruitment of new foster homes.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.13.290 and 1990 c 284 s 11 are each amended to read  
16 as follows:

17 (1) To provide stability to children in out-of-home care, placement  
18 selection shall be made with a view toward the fewest possible

1 placements for each child. If possible, the initial placement shall be  
2 viewed as the only placement for the child. The use of short-term  
3 interim placements of thirty days or less to protect the child's health  
4 or safety while the placement of choice is being arranged is not a  
5 violation of this principle.

6 (2) In any situation in which there has been a founded allegation  
7 of abuse or neglect against a licensed provider, whether or not the  
8 child placed with that provider remains is the decision of the division  
9 of children and family services. In making the decision whether to  
10 remove the child from the home of the provider, the department shall  
11 consider whether the health and safety of the child would be  
12 jeopardized if he or she remained in the provider's home and whether it  
13 is in the child's best interests to be removed from the provider's  
14 home.

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