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SENATE BILL 6809

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State of Washington                      56th Legislature                      2000 Regular Session

By Senators Costa, Thibaudeau and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/31/2000. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1            AN ACT Relating to residential services for children; creating a  
2 new section; and making an appropriation.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1) The joint legislative audit and review  
5 committee shall conduct a study of the types of residential services  
6 provided to certain children in the care of the department of social  
7 and health services. The review shall include residential services  
8 provided to children served by the children's administration of the  
9 department of social and health services.

10            (2) The study shall determine, for the total children served in  
11 residential settings through the children's administration: The  
12 numbers and percentages of children served in each type of residential  
13 setting and the expenditures and unit cost for each type of residential  
14 setting.

15            (3) The study shall describe: The established criteria and process  
16 for placement decisions and the actual process for these decisions,  
17 including the extent to which the best interests of the child are  
18 considered.

1 (4) The study shall include a review of best practices in other  
2 states for residential placement decision making, including total  
3 expenditures and unit costs, and distribution data as described in  
4 subsection (2) of this section. The study also shall review best  
5 practices promoted by national organizations with expertise in this  
6 area of public policy.

7 (5) The study shall recommend changes to the current established  
8 criteria and actual processes of residential decision making as  
9 described in subsection (3) of this section, based on the review of  
10 best practices in other states, and practices promoted by national  
11 organizations with expertise in this area of public policy.

12 (6) The study shall determine the total expenditures and unit costs  
13 of prevention services and residential placement services and the  
14 percentage distribution for each in Washington state as compared to the  
15 states selected for their best practices.

16 (7) The study shall review current funding methodologies for  
17 prevention and residential placement services and make recommendations  
18 for changes if appropriate.

19 (8) The joint legislative audit and review committee shall report  
20 the results of the study to the appropriate standing committees of the  
21 legislature by December 1, 2001.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sum of two hundred fifty thousand  
23 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from  
24 the general fund to the joint legislative audit and review committee  
25 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, to carry out the purposes of  
26 this act.

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