

1 **SHB 2356** - H AMD

2 By Representative Talcott

3 On page 2, after line 15, insert the following:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Nooksack Valley and Mount Vernon  
5 school districts shall implement a pilot project within existing  
6 resources to assist school age children in foster care fewer than  
7 seventy-five days to continue attending the school where they were  
8 enrolled before entering foster care. The pilot project shall be  
9 implemented as provided in this section no later than March 30, 2002  
10 and shall conclude June 30, 2003. Data from the pilot project shall be  
11 compiled and submitted to the working group established in section 1 of  
12 this act no later than July 30, 2002, and periodically thereafter.

13 (2) A school age child who enters foster care on or after March  
14 30, 2002, shall, unless it is determined to be not in the best interest  
15 of the child, continue attending the school where she or he was  
16 enrolled before entering foster care, notwithstanding the physical  
17 location of the child's principal abode. The best interest of the  
18 child determination shall be made at the seventy-two hour shelter care  
19 hearing, and reviewed at any subsequent shelter care hearing.

20 (3) The department of social and health services, the school the  
21 child was attending prior to entering foster care, and the school that  
22 serves the child's foster home shall negotiate a plan for transporting  
23 the child to the school the child was attending prior to entering  
24 foster care.

25 (4) If the department of social and health services places a child  
26 in foster care, and the child does not continue to attend the school  
27 the child was attending prior to entering foster care, the department  
28 shall notify the school about the change.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
30 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
31 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
32 immediately.-

33 Correct the title.

**EFFECT:** Requires the implementation of a pilot project within existing resources to assist school age children in foster care fewer than seventy-five days to continue attending the school where they were enrolled before entering foster care. Adds an emergency clause.