

1 **ESSB 6709** - H COMM AMD **Adopted 3-8-02**

2 By Committee on Children & Family Services

3 On page 2, after line 17, 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) For the purposes of the pilot project in the two school
14 districts, the department of social and health services and the school
15 districts shall, as appropriate, undertake the following activities:

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

23 (b) The department of social and health services, the school the
24 child was attending prior to entering foster care, and the school that
25 serves the child's foster home shall negotiate a plan for transporting
26 the child to the school the child was attending prior to entering
27 foster care. The department of social and health services shall not be
28 responsible for the cost of transportation of the children in the pilot
29 project.

30 (c) If the department of social and health services places a child
31 in foster care, and the child does not continue to attend the school
32 the child was attending prior to entering foster care, the department
33 shall notify the school about the change.

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

5 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. Clarifies
that the DSHS will not be responsible for transportation costs.
Adds an emergency clause.