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HOUSE BILL 1837

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Boldt, Lambert and Mielke

Read first time 02/06/2001. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to contracting out WorkFirst activities; and  
2 amending RCW 74.08A.290.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.08A.290 and 1997 c 58 s 316 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) It is the intent of the legislature that the department is  
7 authorized to engage in competitive contracting using performance-based  
8 contracts to provide all ((work)) activities ((authorized in chapter  
9 58, Laws of 1997, including the job search component authorized in  
10 section 312 of this act)) related to services to WorkFirst recipients,  
11 including case management.

12 (2) The department may use competitive performance-based  
13 contracting to select which vendors will participate in the WorkFirst  
14 program. Performance-based contracts shall be awarded based on factors  
15 that include but are not limited to the criteria listed in RCW  
16 74.08A.410, past performance of the contractor, demonstrated ability to  
17 perform the contract effectively, financial strength of the contractor,  
18 and merits of the proposal for services submitted by the contractor.

1 Contracts shall be made without regard to whether the contractor is a  
2 public or private entity.

3 (3) The department may contract for an evaluation of the  
4 competitive contracting practices and outcomes to be performed by an  
5 independent entity with expertise in government privatization and  
6 competitive strategies. The evaluation shall include quarterly  
7 progress reports to the fiscal committees of the legislature and to the  
8 governor, starting at the first quarter after the effective date of the  
9 first competitive contract and ending two years after the effective  
10 date of the first competitive contract.

11 (4) The department shall seek independent assistance in developing  
12 contracting strategies to implement this section. Assistance may  
13 include but is not limited to development of contract language, design  
14 of requests for proposal, developing full cost information on  
15 government services, evaluation of bids, and providing for equal  
16 competition between private and public entities.

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