
SENATE BILL 5414

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Stevens, Hargrove, Long, Roach and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/22/2001. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to enhancing the department of social and health
2 services' child abuse and neglect service delivery system through
3 support services; adding a new section to chapter 43.20A RCW; and
4 creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A fatality review team was convened
7 following the tragic death of Zynia Nobles, a young girl who suffered
8 lethal physical and emotional abuse. One of the recommendations of the
9 review team was that caseworkers needed assistance to deal with the
10 burdensome clerical requirements generated by their casework. Further,
11 findings indicated a need for improvements in standards for delivery of
12 services, which can be evaluated through accreditation based upon
13 national standards.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20A RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) There is created in the department a standard of clerical
17 support for social workers in the children's administration. This
18 standard shall ensure that every two social workers have at least one

1 clerical support person assigned to them. Employees who are appointed
2 to fill these positions shall have: (a) An employment history that
3 demonstrates the ability and experience in providing clerical support
4 to social workers who do both child protective services investigation
5 and child welfare services, including child sex abuse cases; (b) a
6 demonstrated commitment to professional improvement and advancement;
7 and (c) the capacity to successfully provide support and mentoring to
8 coworkers.

9 (2) There is created in the department a standard of paralegal
10 support for supervisors in the children's administration. This
11 standard shall ensure that every supervisor has at least one paralegal
12 assigned to him or her. Employees who are appointed to fill these
13 positions shall have: (a) An employment history that demonstrates the
14 ability and experience in providing paralegal support to supervisors
15 who supervise social workers that do both child protective services
16 investigation and child welfare services, including child sex abuse
17 cases; (b) a demonstrated commitment to professional improvement and
18 advancement; and (c) the capacity to successfully provide support and
19 mentoring to coworkers.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act shall be known and cited as the
21 Zynia Nobles caseload reduction act.

--- END ---