
SENATE BILL 5536

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Hargrove, Long, Costa, Thibaudeau and Kline

Read first time 01/25/2001. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to child care for children in homeless families;
2 adding a new section to chapter 74.13 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that: (1) Homeless
5 families with young children are at significant risk of being unable to
6 develop long-term economic independence; (2) children in such
7 situations are likely to experience immediate and future adverse
8 consequences due to potential instability in their living arrangements
9 and lack of access to services; and (3) homeless families with young
10 children are inadequately served in terms of access to child care and
11 that such inadequacy acts to impair the abilities of these families to
12 locate housing, employment, and other basic family needs. The
13 legislature intends to require the department of social and health
14 services to dedicate an effort to the development of a comprehensive,
15 research-based, integrated plan to expand the availability and delivery
16 of child care services to homeless families with children. The goals
17 of the plan shall be to increase the stability in the lives of
18 families, offer safe and nurturing places for children, and provide
19 expanded opportunities for economic independence.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) For purposes of this section:

4 (a) "Homeless family" means a family with children lacking a fixed
5 and regular nighttime residence or a family whose primary nighttime
6 residence is a:

7 (i) Supervised shelter designed to provide temporary
8 accommodations;

9 (ii) Halfway house or similar institution providing temporary
10 residence for persons needing or coming out of institutionalization;

11 (iii) Temporary accommodation in the residence of another person
12 for not more than ninety days; or

13 (iv) Place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular
14 sleeping accommodation for humans; and

15 (b) "Child" or "children" means a child or children who have not
16 reached their fourteenth birthday.

17 (2) Not later than June 1, 2002, the secretary shall develop, and
18 present to the legislature and governor, a plan for determining the
19 need for child care services for children in homeless families and a
20 method for providing the child care services.

21 (3) The plan shall include the following, at a minimum:

22 (a) A determination, by age, of the number of children who are in
23 homeless families;

24 (b) A determination of the number of child care slots which are
25 dedicated to the children identified in this subsection;

26 (c) A determination of how many child care slots in addition to
27 those identified in (b) of this subsection are necessary to be
28 dedicated to children in homeless families to reasonably assure that
29 any homeless family which seeks child care slots and lacks the
30 resources to obtain the slots can obtain state-supported child care
31 while they are homeless. The dedication of such slots shall not result
32 in the loss of any child care slots for which state support is
33 available;

34 (d) A cost estimate for providing the slots identified in (c) of
35 this subsection;

36 (e) An assumed implementation date of July 1, 2003.

37 (4) The plan shall assume that children in homeless families are
38 not eligible to continue in child care slots dedicated for children in

1 homeless families longer than thirty calendar days following the date
2 the family is no longer homeless.

3 (5) The plan shall assume that children in homeless families are
4 not eligible to continue in child care slots dedicated for children in
5 homeless families longer than twelve consecutive months.

6 (6) The plan shall be developed in consultation with a
7 representative group of persons from those entities which provide child
8 care to homeless children.

9 (7) The department is required to make certain that services
10 delivered to persons receiving temporary assistance for needy families
11 under chapter 74.08A RCW, and to persons who are receiving child care
12 support under the plan developed under this section, are coordinated.
13 The plan shall have a goal of delivering child care support in a manner
14 that persons enrolled under chapter 74.08A RCW and are receiving child
15 care support remain, to the greatest extent possible, eligible for
16 support under both programs as they attempt to obtain economic
17 independence and stabilized housing.

18 (8) Under no circumstances shall this plan create an entitlement to
19 these services, nor shall it be construed to create such an
20 entitlement.

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