
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5995

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Long, Hargrove and Stevens)

READ FIRST TIME 02/26/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to information sharing among the courts, providers,
2 divisions, and agencies serving dependent children and their families;
3 adding a new section to chapter 13.34 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Recent analysis of the child dependency
6 system following the death of Zy'Nyia Nobles indicated poor
7 communication of relevant information from the courts, to the
8 department, within programs between caseworkers, between divisions,
9 among specialists, caregivers, and family. Appropriate service
10 delivery necessitates communication of relevant information. Barriers
11 to appropriate communication must be eliminated.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 13.34 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 In order to facilitate communication of information needed to serve
15 the best interest of any child who is the subject of a dependency case
16 filed under this chapter, the department of social and health services
17 shall, consistent with state and federal law governing the release of
18 confidential information, establish guidelines, and shall use those

1 guidelines for the facilitation of communication of relevant
2 information among divisions, providers, the courts, the family,
3 caregivers, caseworkers, and others.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Nothing in this act shall be construed to
5 create a private right of action or claim against the department of
6 social and health services on the part of any individual or
7 organization.

--- END ---