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SENATE BILL 6709

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State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Eide, Costa, Rasmussen, Thibaudeau, Prentice, Fraser, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, Haugen and Keiser

Read first time 01/28/2002. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to coordinated service and education planning for  
2 children in out-of-home care; adding a new section to chapter 74.13  
3 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

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

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

7 (1) The department, in cooperation with the office of  
8 superintendent of public instruction, shall prepare a proposal for  
9 consideration by the legislature to address the issue of educational  
10 stability and continuity for children who are in short-term out-of-home  
11 placement. For the purposes of this proposal, "short-term out-of-home  
12 placement" means a placement of fewer than seventy-five days. The  
13 department shall also consult with representatives of school districts  
14 and entities that regularly advocate on behalf of persons who are  
15 foster children and foster parents.

16 (2) The proposal shall address the best interests of children in  
17 short-term out-of-home care and recommend options for reducing adverse  
18 impacts on learning stability and educational continuity of those  
19 children. The proposal shall consider: (a) When, and under what

1 circumstances, efforts should be made to maintain children in  
2 short-term out-of-home care as enrolled students in the district in  
3 which they were enrolled prior to placement in out-of-home care; (b)  
4 upon whom any costs associated with transportation from their  
5 out-of-home care residence to the school should be placed; (c) what  
6 arrangements should be made regarding children who had been in private  
7 school or receiving home-based instruction; (d) appropriate  
8 coordination of departmental and judicial scheduling and decision  
9 making to reduce the adverse impacts on the educational status of  
10 children in short-term out-of-home care; (e) any needed regulatory and  
11 statutory changes needed to implement the proposal; and (f) the  
12 circumstances under which it would be appropriate to transfer the  
13 child's enrolled status to a district other than that in which she or  
14 he had been enrolled.

15 (3) The proposal shall be submitted to the governor and the  
16 legislature not later than October 1, 2002.

17 (4) This section expires January 1, 2003.

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