

SHB 1058 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Children & Family Services & Corrections

ADOPTED 04/09/2003

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the educational
4 attainment of children in foster care is significantly lower than that
5 of children not in foster care. The legislature finds that many
6 factors influence educational outcomes for children in foster care,
7 including the disruption of the educational process because of
8 repeatedly changing schools.

9 The legislature recognizes the importance of educational stability
10 for foster children, and encourages the ongoing efforts of the
11 department of social and health services and the office of the
12 superintendent of public instruction to improve educational attainment
13 of children in foster care. It is the intent of the legislature that
14 efforts continue such as the recruitment of foster homes in school
15 districts with high rates of foster care placements, the development
16 and dissemination of informational materials regarding the challenges
17 faced by children in foster care, and the expansion to other school
18 districts of best practices identified in pilot projects.

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

21 It is the policy of the state of Washington that, whenever
22 practical and in the best interest of the child, children placed into
23 foster care shall remain enrolled in the schools they were attending at
24 the time they entered foster care.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
26 to read as follows:

27 The administrative regions of the department shall develop
28 protocols with the respective school districts in their regions

1 specifying specific strategies for communication, coordination, and
2 collaboration regarding the status and progress of foster children
3 placed in the region, in order to maximize the educational continuity
4 and achievement for foster children. The protocols shall include
5 methods to assure effective sharing of information consistent with RCW
6 28A.225.330.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 (1) The department shall establish an oversight committee composed
10 of staff from the children's administration of the department, the
11 office of the superintendent of public instruction, and advocacy
12 agencies to develop strategies for maintaining foster children in the
13 schools they were attending at the time they entered foster care.

14 (2) The duties of the oversight committee shall include, but are
15 not limited to:

16 (a) Developing strategies for school-based recruitment of foster
17 homes;

18 (b) Monitoring the progress of current pilot projects that assist
19 foster children to continue attending the schools they were attending
20 at the time they entered foster care;

21 (c) Overseeing the expansion of the number of pilot projects;

22 (d) Promoting the use of best practices, throughout the state,
23 demonstrated by the pilot projects and other programs relating to
24 maintaining foster children in the schools they were attending at the
25 time they entered foster care; and

26 (e) Informing the legislature of the status of efforts to maintain
27 foster children in the schools they were attending at the time they
28 entered foster care.

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

31 The department shall work with the administrative office of the
32 courts to develop protocols to ensure that educational stability is
33 addressed during the shelter care hearing.

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

3 The department shall perform the tasks provided in sections 2
4 through 5 of this act based on available resources."

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5 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "care;" strike the remainder
6 of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter 74.13 RCW; and
7 creating a new section."

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