
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1058

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Kagi, Boldt, McIntire, Nixon, Dickerson, Fromhold, O'Brien, Lantz, Linville, Kenney, Kessler, Clibborn, Talcott, Simpson and Wood)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to educational attainment of children in foster
2 care; adding new sections to chapter 74.13 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

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

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

1 faced by children in foster care, and the expansion to other school
2 districts of best practices identified in pilot projects.

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

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

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

11 The administrative regions of the department shall develop
12 protocols with the respective school districts in their regions
13 specifying specific strategies for communication, coordination, and
14 collaboration regarding the status and progress of foster children
15 placed in the region, in order to maximize the educational continuity
16 and achievement for foster children.

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

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

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

26 (a) Developing strategies for school-based recruitment of foster
27 homes;

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

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

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

1 (e) Informing the legislature of the status of efforts to maintain
2 foster children in the schools they were attending at the time they
3 entered foster care.

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

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

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

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

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