

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1058

58th Legislature
2003 Regular Session

Passed by the House April 21, 2003
Yeas 97 Nays 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 9, 2003
Yeas 45 Nays 0

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Cynthia Zehnder, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1058** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1058

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2003 Regular Session

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. The protocols shall include
17 methods to assure effective sharing of information consistent with RCW
18 28A.225.330.

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

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

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

28 (a) Developing strategies for school-based recruitment of foster
29 homes;

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

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

34 (d) Promoting the use of best practices, throughout the state,

1 demonstrated by the pilot projects and other programs relating to
2 maintaining foster children in the schools they were attending at the
3 time they entered foster care; and

4 (e) Informing the legislature of the status of efforts to maintain
5 foster children in the schools they were attending at the time they
6 entered foster care.

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

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

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

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

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