

SHB 2156 - S AMD 603

By Senators Hargrove, Stevens

ADOPTED 04/19/2005

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) A joint task force on child safety for  
4 children in child protective services or child welfare services is  
5 established. The joint task force shall consist of the following  
6 members:

7 (a) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate,  
8 appointed by the president of the senate;

9 (b) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house  
10 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of  
11 representatives;

12 (c) A representative from the Washington council for prevention of  
13 child abuse and neglect;

14 (d) One representative from each of the four most recent child  
15 fatality review committees;

16 (e) The secretary of the department of social and health services  
17 or the secretary's designee;

18 (f) The executive director of the office of public defense or the  
19 executive director's designee;

20 (g) The director of the office of family and children's ombudsman  
21 or the director's designee;

22 (h) A representative of the Washington association of sheriffs and  
23 police chiefs;

24 (i) The secretary of the department of health or the secretary's  
25 designee;

26 (j) A representative of the office of attorney general;

27 (k) A representative of the superior court judges association;

28 (l) One representative each from social workers for child  
29 protective services and social workers for child welfare services,

1 appointed by the secretary of the department of social and health  
2 services; and

3 (m) The following members, jointly appointed by the speaker of the  
4 house of representatives and the president of the senate:

5 (i) A representative from a statewide foster parents association  
6 and a foster parent not affiliated with the statewide foster parents  
7 association;

8 (ii) A representative from a statewide birth parent organization or  
9 a birth parent who has been involved in the child welfare system;

10 (iii) Two representatives of Washington state Indian tribes as  
11 defined under the federal Indian welfare act (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901 et  
12 seq.); and

13 (iv) One representative each from two different organizations that  
14 primarily provide services to children and families involved with the  
15 child welfare system.

16 (2) Two of the legislative members shall serve as cochairs of the  
17 task force.

18 (3) The task force shall review and make recommendations to the  
19 legislature and the governor on improving the health, safety, and  
20 welfare of Washington children in child protective services or child  
21 welfare services. In preparing the recommendations, the committee  
22 shall, at a minimum, review the following issues:

23 (a) State and federal statutes regarding child safety, placement,  
24 removal from the home, termination of parental rights, and  
25 reunification with parents;

26 (b) Current and ongoing department of social and health services  
27 work groups or work plans regarding child safety, placement, removal  
28 from the home, termination of parental rights, and reunification with  
29 parents;

30 (c) The purpose and value of child protection teams and determine  
31 whether any changes should be made;

32 (d) Best practices regarding children removed from parents at birth  
33 and placed in out-of-home care, transition services for families with  
34 children in out-of-home placement for an extended period of time, and  
35 standards for return to home placement when a child has been placed  
36 out-of-home including situations where a child has been placed out-of-  
37 home and returned to home multiple times;

1 (e) The training that is offered to social workers regarding child  
2 development and determine whether any changes should be made;

3 (f) Best practices regarding sharing of accurate, complete, and  
4 relevant medical, mental health, and substance abuse information  
5 between case workers, supervisors, the courts, child protection teams,  
6 counsel, guardians, parents, and other relevant participants in child  
7 placement decisions;

8 (g) Best practices for assessing and addressing chemical dependency  
9 issues of parents;

10 (h) The effectiveness of current home-based service providers  
11 currently used and determine whether any changes should be made;

12 (i) Best practices addressing family cultural and tribal issues and  
13 the role, if any, of social worker training or bias in safety  
14 assessment and placement decisions; and

15 (j) Other issues deemed relevant to improving child safety  
16 outcomes.

17 (4) The task force, where feasible, may consult with individuals  
18 from the public and private sector.

19 (5) The task force shall use legislative facilities and staff from  
20 senate committee services and the house office of program research.

21 (6) The task force shall report its preliminary findings and  
22 recommendations to the legislature by December 31, 2005, and a final  
23 report on its findings and recommendations by September 1, 2006.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act expires October 1, 2006.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
26 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
27 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
28 immediately."

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1        On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "rights;" strike the  
2 remainder of the title and insert "creating a new section; providing an  
3 expiration date; and declaring an emergency."

**--- END ---**