
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1079

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Higher Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Kagi, Kenney, Chase, Dickerson and Schual-Berke; by request of Governor Locke)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to postsecondary education and training support for
2 former foster youth; amending RCW 74.13.570; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) The majority of foster youth fail to thrive in our educational
7 system and, relative to nonfoster youth, disproportionately few enroll
8 in college or other postsecondary training programs. As a result,
9 former foster youth generally have poor employment and life
10 satisfaction outcomes; and

11 (b) Low expectations, lack of information, fragmented support
12 services, and financial hardship are the most frequently cited reasons
13 for failure of foster youth to pursue postsecondary education or
14 training. Initiatives have been undertaken at both the state and
15 community levels in Washington to improve outcomes for foster youth in
16 transition to independence; however, these initiatives are often not
17 coordinated to complement one another.

18 (2) The legislature intends to encourage and support foster youth
19 to pursue postsecondary education or training opportunities. A

1 coordination committee that provides statewide planning and oversight
2 of related efforts will improve the effectiveness of both current and
3 future initiatives to improve postsecondary educational outcomes for
4 foster youth.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.13.570 and 2003 c 112 s 4 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The department shall establish an oversight committee composed
8 of staff from the children's administration of the department, the
9 office of the superintendent of public instruction, the higher
10 education coordinating board, foster youth, former foster youth, foster
11 parents, and advocacy agencies to develop strategies for maintaining
12 foster children in the schools they were attending at the time they
13 entered foster care and to promote opportunities for foster youth to
14 participate in postsecondary education or training.

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (f) Assessing the scope and nature of statewide need among current
31 and former foster youth for assistance to pursue and participate in
32 postsecondary education or training opportunities;

33 (g) Identifying available sources of funding available in the state
34 for services to former foster youth to pursue and participate in
35 postsecondary education or training opportunities;

36 (h) Reviewing the effectiveness of activities in the state to

1 support former foster youth to pursue and participate in postsecondary
2 education or training opportunities;

3 (i) Identifying new activities, or existing activities that should
4 be modified or expanded, to best meet statewide needs; and

5 (j) Reviewing on an ongoing basis the progress toward improving
6 educational and vocational outcomes for foster youth.

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