

---

HOUSE BILL 2189

---

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Kagi, Hinkle, Dickerson, Roberts, Darneille, Simpson, Moeller, Morrell and Santos

Read first time 02/22/2005. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to the safety of child protective services and  
2 child welfare services staff; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that efforts to  
5 protect children from abuse and neglect and support families are  
6 dependent upon the efforts of staff in the field who work directly with  
7 the children and families of this state. Child protective services  
8 staff investigate reports of suspected child abuse and neglect and,  
9 when necessary, intervene by providing services designed to increase  
10 children's safety and protect them from further harm. Child welfare  
11 services staff provide longer-term services to families, including  
12 intensive treatment services to children and families who may need help  
13 with chronic or serious problems that interfere with their ability to  
14 protect or parent children.

15 The legislature determines that in order to perform their work, the  
16 safety of child protective services and child welfare services staff  
17 must be addressed.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    (1) The department of social and health  
2 services shall establish a work group to develop policies and protocols  
3 to address the safety of child protective services and child welfare  
4 services staff.

5        (2) Membership of the work group shall include the following:  
6 Representatives of the children's administration of the department of  
7 social and health services, including representatives of child  
8 protective services staff and child welfare services staff; law  
9 enforcement; and prosecuting attorneys.

10       (3) The department of social and health services shall provide the  
11 developed policies and protocols to the governor and the appropriate  
12 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2005.

--- END ---