
SENATE BILL 6741

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Stevens, Hargrove, Carrell, Brandland and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/20/2006. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to the joint task force on the administration and
2 delivery of services to children and families; amending 2005 c 474 s 1
3 (uncodified); amending 2005 c 474 s 2 (uncodified); amending 2005 c 474
4 s 3 (uncodified); and providing expiration dates.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** 2005 c 474 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:
7 (1) A joint task force is created to determine the most appropriate
8 and effective administrative structure for delivery of social and
9 health services to the children and families of the state. The joint
10 task force shall study how best to ensure that an administrative
11 structure has defined lines of responsibility for delivering services
12 to children and families in need and the best means for the public to
13 hold government accountable for delivery of those services. The joint
14 task force shall compare the effectiveness of: Including social and
15 health services to children and families within an umbrella agency,
16 such as the current department of social and health services;
17 establishing a separate agency for social and health services to
18 children and families whose administrator reports directly to the
19 governor; or creating a children and family services cabinet reporting

1 directly to the governor. The joint task force shall, as part of the
2 comparison, examine the administrative structures used in other states
3 to deliver social and health services to children and families.

4 (2) This section expires July 1, 2007.

5 **Sec. 2.** 2005 c 474 s 2 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

6 (1) Membership of the joint task force shall consist of the
7 following:

8 (a) The dean of the school of social work at the University of
9 Washington or an academic professor from a list recommended by the
10 dean, jointly appointed by the chairs of the house of representatives
11 children and family services committee and the senate human services
12 and corrections committee;

13 (b) Two members of the house of representatives appointed by the
14 speaker of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be a member
15 of the majority caucus and one of whom shall be a member of the
16 minority caucus, and two members of the senate appointed by the
17 president of the senate, one of whom shall be a member of the majority
18 caucus and one of whom shall be a member of the minority caucus;

19 (c) The secretary of the department of social and health services
20 or the secretary's designee;

21 (d) An individual with previous experience as an administrator of
22 a public agency providing services to children and families, jointly
23 appointed by the chairs of the house of representatives children and
24 family services committee and the senate human services and corrections
25 committee;

26 (e) A juvenile court administrator, jointly appointed by the chairs
27 of the house of representatives children and family services committee
28 and the senate human services and corrections committee;

29 (f) A family superior court judge, jointly appointed by the chairs
30 of the house of representatives children and family services committee
31 and the senate human services and corrections committee;

32 (g) The director of the office of the family and children's
33 ombudsman;

34 (h) A social worker with experience in the public sector serving
35 children and families, jointly appointed by the chairs of the house of
36 representatives children and family services committee and the senate
37 human services and corrections committee; (~~and~~)

1 (i) Two representatives of community-based providers serving
2 children and families, jointly appointed by the chairs of the house of
3 representatives children and family services committee and the senate
4 human services and corrections committee;

5 (j) A representative from the office of the superintendent of
6 public instruction;

7 (k) A representative from the office of public defender; and

8 (l) A representative from the governor's office.

9 (2) The dean of the school of social work at the University of
10 Washington or the academic professor appointed from a list recommended
11 by the dean shall be the chair of the joint task force.

12 (3) Staff support for the joint task force shall be provided by the
13 house of representatives office of program research and senate
14 committee services and may include consultant services. At least a
15 one-half full-time equivalent position shall be devoted to the task
16 force.

17 (4) Legislative members of the joint task force shall be reimbursed
18 for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
19 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are
20 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW
21 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

22 (5) This section expires July 1, 2007.

23 **Sec. 3.** 2005 c 474 s 3 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

24 (1) The joint task force shall make recommendations concerning
25 which administrative structure or structures would best realize
26 efficiencies in administration and best achieve positive outcomes for
27 children and families, including, but not limited to, the following:

28 (a) Reducing the number of children at risk for abuse or neglect
29 and increasing the safety and well-being of children;

30 (b) Increasing the ability of families to care for their own
31 children and reducing the number of children in foster care;

32 (c) Increasing placement stability and permanency for children in
33 out-of-home care and reducing unsafe and inappropriate placements;

34 (d) Delivering appropriate and timely mental health services;

35 (e) Providing adequate and appropriate staff training and
36 education;

37 (f) Promoting foster parent recruitment, training, and retention;

1 (g) Reducing the frequency and duration of sibling separation;
2 (h) Delivering adequate and timely services to adolescents; and
3 (i) Increasing responsibility and accountability for achieving
4 goals.

5 (2) The joint task force shall also make recommendations concerning
6 the costs, benefits, savings, or reductions in services associated with
7 the various administrative structures considered by the joint task
8 force.

9 (3) The joint task force shall report its recommendations to the
10 governor and appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1,
11 2006.

12 (4) This section expires July 1, 2007.

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