
SENATE BILL 6749

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove, Schmidt and Rasmussen

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

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a foster parent critical support
2 and retention program; creating new sections; and making an
3 appropriation.

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

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

6 (1) Foster parents have little means to cope with children who are
7 sexually reactive, are physically assaultive, or have other high-risk
8 behaviors. There is little support for them in the foster home
9 setting. This lack of support contributes to the fact that most of
10 these very high-risk children will have multiple foster home
11 placements;

12 (2) Two-thirds of the work of child protective services in
13 Washington state is linked with families that it sees repeatedly. The
14 families have cumulative risks such as drug abuse, domestic violence,
15 and mental illness. Abuse of children in these families frequently
16 occurs;

17 (3) Many of our next generation's sexual predators and violent
18 offenders are in foster care today. These children have had severe and
19 repeated early abuse, are under age twelve, and move freely in schools

1 and child care. In 1992, the division of children and family services
2 reported that children who were sexually reactive molested an average
3 of five children while in foster care; and

4 (4) In our state, hundreds of these children are now in foster
5 care. This pressures an already stressed foster care system. It also
6 sets the stage for these children to enter into a lifetime of deviant
7 behavior.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A foster parent critical support and
9 retention program is established to retain foster parents who care for
10 children who act out sexually, are physically assaultive, or have other
11 high-risk behaviors. The foster parent critical support and retention
12 program is to be implemented under the division of children and family
13 services' contract and supervision. A contractor must demonstrate
14 experience providing in-home case management to foster homes that are
15 licensed through the division of children and family services.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Under the foster parent critical support and
17 retention program, foster parents who care for children who act out
18 sexually and/or physically or have other high-risk behaviors shall
19 receive:

- 20 (1) Twenty-four/seven emergency assistance;
- 21 (2) Assessment of risk and development of a safety and supervision
22 plan;
- 23 (3) Home-based foster parent training utilizing evidence-based
24 models;
- 25 (4) Ongoing support groups; and
- 26 (5) Referral to community services.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of two hundred seventy-five thousand
28 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
29 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the
30 division of children and family services for direct services for the
31 purposes of this act.

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