

SHB 1624 - H AMD TO H AMD (1624-S AMH KAGI HALL 127)
By Representative Kagi

ADOPTED 03/12/2007

1 On page 27, after line 25 of the amendment, insert the following:

2 "Sec. 13. RCW 74.13.031 and 2006 c 266 s 1 and 2006 c 221 s 3 are
3 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

4 The department shall have the duty to provide child welfare
5 services and shall:

6 (1) Develop, administer, supervise, and monitor a coordinated and
7 comprehensive plan that establishes, aids, and strengthens services for
8 the protection and care of runaway, dependent, or neglected children.

9 (2) Within available resources, recruit an adequate number of
10 prospective adoptive and foster homes, both regular and specialized,
11 i.e. homes for children of ethnic minority, including Indian homes for
12 Indian children, sibling groups, handicapped and emotionally disturbed,
13 teens, pregnant and parenting teens, and annually report to the
14 governor and the legislature concerning the department's success in:
15 (a) Meeting the need for adoptive and foster home placements; (b)
16 reducing the foster parent turnover rate; (c) completing home studies
17 for legally free children; and (d) implementing and operating the
18 passport program required by RCW 74.13.285. The report shall include
19 a section entitled "Foster Home Turn-Over, Causes and Recommendations."

20 (3) Investigate complaints of any recent act or failure to act on
21 the part of a parent or caretaker that results in death, serious
22 physical or emotional harm, or sexual abuse or exploitation, or that
23 presents an imminent risk of serious harm, and on the basis of the
24 findings of such investigation, offer child welfare services in
25 relation to the problem to such parents, legal custodians, or persons
26 serving in loco parentis, and/or bring the situation to the attention
27 of an appropriate court, or another community agency: PROVIDED, That
28 an investigation is not required of nonaccidental injuries which are
29 clearly not the result of a lack of care or supervision by the child's
30 parents, legal custodians, or persons serving in loco parentis. If the

1 investigation reveals that a crime against a child may have been
2 committed, the department shall notify the appropriate law enforcement
3 agency.

4 (4) Offer, on a voluntary basis, family reconciliation services to
5 families who are in conflict.

6 (5) Monitor out-of-home placements, on a timely and routine basis,
7 to assure the safety, well-being, and quality of care being provided is
8 within the scope of the intent of the legislature as defined in RCW
9 74.13.010 and 74.15.010, and annually submit a report measuring the
10 extent to which the department achieved the specified goals to the
11 governor and the legislature.

12 (6) Have authority to accept custody of children from parents and
13 to accept custody of children from juvenile courts, where authorized to
14 do so under law, to provide child welfare services including placement
15 for adoption, to provide for the routine and necessary medical, dental,
16 and mental health care, or necessary emergency care of the children,
17 and to provide for the physical care of such children and make payment
18 of maintenance costs if needed. Except where required by Public Law
19 95-608 (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1915), no private adoption agency which receives
20 children for adoption from the department shall discriminate on the
21 basis of race, creed, or color when considering applications in their
22 placement for adoption.

23 (7) Have authority to provide temporary shelter to children who
24 have run away from home and who are admitted to crisis residential
25 centers.

26 (8) Have authority to purchase care for children; and shall follow
27 in general the policy of using properly approved private agency
28 services for the actual care and supervision of such children insofar
29 as they are available, paying for care of such children as are accepted
30 by the department as eligible for support at reasonable rates
31 established by the department.

32 (9) Establish a children's services advisory committee which shall
33 assist the secretary in the development of a partnership plan for
34 utilizing resources of the public and private sectors, and advise on
35 all matters pertaining to child welfare, licensing of child care
36 agencies, adoption, and services related thereto. At least one member
37 shall represent the adoption community.

1 (10)(a) Have authority to provide continued foster care or group
2 care as needed to participate in or complete a high school or
3 vocational school program.

4 (b)(i) Beginning in 2006, the department has the authority to allow
5 up to fifty youth reaching age eighteen to continue in foster care or
6 group care as needed to participate in or complete a posthigh school
7 academic or vocational program, and to receive necessary support and
8 transition services.

9 (ii) In 2007 and 2008, the department has the authority to allow up
10 to fifty additional youth per year reaching age eighteen to remain in
11 foster care or group care as provided in (b)(i) of this subsection.

12 (iii) A youth who remains eligible for such placement and services
13 pursuant to department rules may continue in foster care or group care
14 until the youth reaches his or her twenty-first birthday. Eligibility
15 requirements shall include active enrollment in a posthigh school
16 academic or vocational program and maintenance of a 2.0 grade point
17 average.

18 (11) Refer cases to the division of child support whenever state or
19 federal funds are expended for the care and maintenance of a child,
20 including a child with a developmental disability who is placed as a
21 result of an action under chapter 13.34 RCW, unless the department
22 finds that there is good cause not to pursue collection of child
23 support against the parent or parents of the child. Cases involving
24 individuals age eighteen through twenty shall not be referred to the
25 division of child support unless required by federal law.

26 (12) Have authority within funds appropriated for foster care
27 services to purchase care for Indian children who are in the custody of
28 a federally recognized Indian tribe or tribally licensed child-placing
29 agency pursuant to parental consent, tribal court order, or state
30 juvenile court order; and the purchase of such care shall be subject to
31 the same eligibility standards and rates of support applicable to other
32 children for whom the department purchases care.

33 Notwithstanding any other provision of RCW 13.32A.170 through
34 13.32A.200 and 74.13.032 through 74.13.036, or of this section all
35 services to be provided by the department of social and health services
36 under subsections (4), (6), and (7) of this section, subject to the
37 limitations of these subsections, may be provided by any program

1 offering such services funded pursuant to Titles II and III of the
2 federal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention act of 1974.

3 (13) Within amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, provide
4 preventive services to families with children that prevent or shorten
5 the duration of an out-of-home placement.

6 (14) Have authority to provide independent living services to
7 youths, including individuals who have attained eighteen years of age,
8 and have not attained twenty-one years of age who are or have been in
9 foster care.

10 (15) Consult at least quarterly with the foster parent association
11 of Washington state for the purpose of receiving information and
12 comment regarding how the department is performing the duties and
13 meeting the obligations specified in this section and RCW 74.13.250 and
14 74.13.320 regarding the recruitment of foster homes, reducing foster
15 parent turnover rates, providing effective training for foster parents,
16 and administering a coordinated and comprehensive plan that strengthens
17 services for the protection of children. Consultation shall occur at
18 the regional and statewide levels.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** (1) The secretary of the department of
20 social and health services shall work in conjunction with the
21 University of Washington to study the need for and the feasibility of
22 creating tiered classifications for foster parent licensing, including
23 a professional foster parent classification. The secretary of the
24 department of social and health services and the dean of the school of
25 social work, or his or her designee, at the University of Washington
26 jointly shall facilitate a work group composed of: (a) One or more
27 representatives from the Washington federation of state employees; (b)
28 two or more representatives from the foster parent association of
29 Washington state; (c) the director of the institute for children and
30 families at the University of Washington; and (d) four or more child
31 welfare professionals with subject matter expertise from the public,
32 private, or academic communities.

33 (2) To promote the exchange of ideas and collaboration, the
34 secretary and the director also shall convene at least two focused
35 stakeholder meetings seeking input from a broad range of foster
36 parents, social workers, and community members. To facilitate the
37 exchange of ideas, the department of social and health services shall

1 provide to the work group the contact information for licensed foster
2 parents for the sole purpose of communicating with foster parents
3 regarding issues relevant to foster parents. The work group shall keep
4 the contact information confidential and shall develop guidelines for
5 the use and maintenance of this contact information among work group
6 members.

7 (3) The secretary of the department of social and health services
8 and the dean of the school of social work, or his or her designee, at
9 the University of Washington shall report the recommendations of the
10 work group to the appropriate committees of the legislature by January
11 1, 2008.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** Section 14 of this act expires January 1,
13 2008."

14 Renumber the remaining section consecutively, correct internal
15 references accordingly, and correct the title.

EFFECT: Directs the DSHS to consult quarterly with the Foster Parent Association of Washington State at statewide and regional levels regarding foster parent recruitment and retention; foster parent training; and performance of the DSHS duties relating to the administration of a coordinated plan of services to protect children. Directs the DSHS to work in conjunction with the Dean of the UW School of Social Work to study the need for and feasibility of creating a tiered classification for foster parent licensing. Directs the secretary of the DSHS and the Dean of the School of Social Work to jointly facilitate a work group and to report back to the Legislature by January 1, 2008, regarding the work group's recommendations. Requires the DSHS to provide the work group with contact information for licensed foster parents for the sole purpose of communicating with foster parents regarding issues relevant to foster parents.

--- END ---