
SENATE BILL 5882

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators Kauffman, McAuliffe, Regala, Shin, and Kline

Read first time 02/05/09. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to an evaluation of two recommendations made by the
2 racial disproportionality advisory committee; and creating new
3 sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that in 2007 it passed
6 chapter 465 (Substitute House Bill No. 1472), Laws of 2007 directing
7 the department of social and health services to accomplish the
8 following: Determine if racial disproportionality exists in
9 Washington's child welfare system; and identify needed remediation if
10 disproportionality was found.

11 The legislature further finds that research conducted by the
12 Washington state institute for public policy released in June 2008
13 established that racial disproportionality exists in Washington's child
14 welfare system. The legislature finds that the greatest
15 disproportionality for children of color occurs when: The initial
16 referral to child protective services is made; the decision to remove
17 the child from home is made; and a child is in care for over two years.

18 The legislature acknowledges that a December 2008 report from the
19 department of social and health services identified initial

1 recommendations for remediation, of which the two most important call
2 for examining two current child welfare practices, structured decision
3 making and family team decision making, to determine their impact on
4 racial disproportionality in the child welfare system.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington state institute for public
6 policy is directed to evaluate the use of structured decision-making
7 practices by the children's administration in the department of social
8 and health services to determine its impact on reducing the
9 disproportionality of African-American, Native American, and latino
10 children referred to the department of social and health services. The
11 institute shall also evaluate the use of the family team decision-
12 making model by the department to determine whether the model reduces
13 disproportionality in the placement and length of stay of children of
14 color.

15 The institute shall report its finding to the legislature and the
16 department of social and health services no later than September 1,
17 2010.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** It is expected that this evaluation will be
19 supported partly through state dollars and partly through private
20 funding.

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