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SENATE BILL 6618

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senators Regala and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/19/10. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the family friendly court grant  
2 program; adding new sections to chapter 2.56 RCW; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that many families  
6 experience challenges and transitions with legal ramifications that  
7 often necessitate court involvement. Frequently, these legal matters  
8 are manifested in juvenile offender, child in need of supervision,  
9 at-risk youth, child protective, domestic relations, domestic violence,  
10 third-party custody proceedings and other matters that require the  
11 presence of individuals and family members at court proceedings. Many  
12 persons whose attendance is required at these court proceedings are  
13 responsible for the care of young children. For many such individuals,  
14 child care issues can distract from, if not present obstacles or even  
15 barriers to, effective and complete participation in ongoing court  
16 proceedings. The legislature therefore determines that the creation of  
17 family friendly court child care programs would be beneficial to and in  
18 the best interests of the citizens of the state of Washington. The  
19 legislature further finds that the goal of such programs shall be to

1 provide quality child care in or near courthouses to the children of  
2 individuals and families whose presence is required at court-related  
3 proceedings.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 2.56 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Subject to the availability of funding, the family friendly  
7 court grant program is created. The purpose of the program is to  
8 provide quality in-court child care services to the children of  
9 individuals who are attending court proceedings or related matters.  
10 For purposes of this chapter, "in-court child care" means child care  
11 services provided in the courthouse or courthouse complex or in close  
12 proximity to the courthouse.

13 (2) The administrator for the courts shall develop and administer  
14 the program subject to the requirements in section 3 of this act. As  
15 part of administering the program, the administrator for the courts  
16 shall define appropriate outcome measures, collect data, and gather  
17 information from courts receiving grants.

18 (3) In addition to grants received from the administrator for the  
19 courts under this section, superior courts implementing family friendly  
20 court programs under this act are authorized to accept any funds,  
21 grants, gifts, or donations from any private or public source for the  
22 purpose of implementing this act. No grant or donation shall be  
23 accepted if the conditions attached to the grant or donation require  
24 the expenditure of those moneys in a manner contrary to law.

25 (4) Funds received by the superior court for the family friendly  
26 court program must be used to supplement, not supplant, any other  
27 local, state, or federal funds for the court.

28 (5) Upon receipt of any funds for the purpose of this act, the  
29 superior court shall submit to the administrator for the courts a  
30 spending plan detailing the use of the funds for in-court child care.  
31 At the end of the fiscal year, the superior court shall submit to the  
32 administrator for the courts a financial report comparing the spending  
33 plan to actual expenditures.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 2.56 RCW  
35 to read as follows:

36 A superior court may apply for grants from the family friendly

1 court grant program by submitting an application with the administrator  
2 for the courts. To be eligible to receive grant funds, a superior  
3 court must agree to be responsible for:

4 (1) Recruiting and hiring qualified and skilled child care  
5 providers and ensuring that all child care licensing requirements in  
6 chapter 43.215 RCW are met;

7 (2) Conducting the necessary criminal history checks;

8 (3) Selecting and establishing a safe physical location for the in-  
9 court child care;

10 (4) Implementing a method of evaluating the effectiveness of the  
11 program and assessing the impact of the child care services provided  
12 through the program; and

13 (5) Reporting annually to the administrator for the courts  
14 concerning the results of the superior court's evaluation of the family  
15 friendly court grant program as well as an accounting of fiscal  
16 contributions received and expenditures made by the superior court for  
17 the implementation, administration, and maintenance of the program and  
18 such other information that the administrator for the courts may  
19 require.

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