
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1128

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By House Early Learning & Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Roberts, Carlyle, Kagi, Walsh, Orwall, Goodman, Reykdal, Kenney, Maxwell, Appleton, Hunt, and Pettigrew)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/11.

1 AN ACT Relating to extended foster care services; and creating new
2 sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The Washington state legislature has
5 consistently provided national leadership on safe housing and support
6 to foster youth transitioning out of foster care. Since 2004, the
7 legislature has addressed the needs of foster youth aging out of care
8 with the independent youth housing program (2004), foster care to
9 twenty-one (2006), and Washington's alignment with the federal
10 fostering connections act (2009). As a result of this national
11 leadership to provide safe and basic housing to youth aging out of
12 foster care, the programs have demonstrated the significant cost
13 benefit to providing safe housing to our youth exiting foster care.

14 The United States congress passed the fostering connections to
15 success and increasing adoptions act of 2008 in order to give states
16 another financial tool to continue to provide foster care services to
17 dependent youth who turn eighteen years old while in foster care.
18 However, substantially declining revenues have resulted in markedly

1 decreased funds for states to use to meet the federal requirements
2 necessary to help these youth. Current fiscal realities require that
3 the scope of programs must be narrowed.

4 The Washington state legislature intends to serve, within the
5 resources available, the maximum number of foster youth who are legally
6 dependent on the state and who reach the age of eighteen while still in
7 foster care. The legislature intends to provide these youth continued
8 foster care services to support basic and healthy transition into
9 adulthood. The legislature recognizes the extremely poor outcomes of
10 unsupported foster youth aging out of the foster care system and is
11 committed to ensuring that those foster youth who engage in positive,
12 age-appropriate activities, including higher education and employment,
13 receive the support that all Washington youth need to transition into
14 independence and self-sufficiency. It is the intent of the legislature
15 to fully engage in the fostering connections act by supporting foster
16 youth to age nineteen with the goal of increasing support to age
17 twenty-one as resources become available.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of social and health services
19 shall, within existing resources, develop a plan to implement the
20 provisions of the fostering connections act to provide foster care
21 services for youth up to the age of twenty-one years. The department
22 shall consult with representatives from the department of commerce, the
23 administrative office of the courts, and other appropriate agencies.
24 The department shall present a report to the legislature no later than
25 December 31, 2011.

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