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**SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1302**

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**State of Washington**

**63rd Legislature**

**2013 Regular Session**

**By** House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Roberts, Walsh, Kagi, Goodman, Carlyle, Freeman, Stonier, Reykdal, Lytton, Jenkins, Ryu, Maxwell, Tharinger, Santos, and Pollet)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to extended foster care services; amending RCW  
2 13.34.145, 13.34.267, 74.13.020, and 74.13.031; reenacting and amending  
3 RCW 13.34.030, 74.13.020, and 74.13.031; creating new sections;  
4 providing an effective date; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the federal  
7 fostering connections to success and increasing adoptions act of 2008  
8 provides important new opportunities to increase the impact of state  
9 funding through maximizing the amount of federal funding available to  
10 promote permanency and positive outcomes for dependent youth.

11 (2) The legislature also finds that children and adolescents who  
12 are legal dependents of Washington state have experienced significant  
13 trauma and loss, putting them at increased risk for poor life outcomes.  
14 Longitudinal research on the adult functioning of former foster youth  
15 indicates a disproportionate likelihood that youth aging out of foster  
16 care and those who spent several years in care will experience poor  
17 outcomes in a variety of areas, including limited human capital upon  
18 which to build economic security and inability to fully take advantage  
19 of secondary and postsecondary educational opportunities, untreated

1 mental or behavioral health problems, involvement in the criminal  
2 justice and corrections systems, and early parenthood combined with  
3 second-generation child welfare involvement.

4 (3) The legislature further finds that research also demonstrates  
5 that access to adequate and appropriate supports during the period of  
6 transition from foster care to independence can have significant  
7 positive impacts on adult functioning and can improve outcomes relating  
8 to educational attainment and postsecondary enrollment, employment and  
9 earnings, and reduced rates of teen pregnancies.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 13.34.030 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 36 s 13 are each  
11 reenacted and amended to read as follows:

12 For purposes of this chapter:

13 (1) "Abandoned" means when the child's parent, guardian, or other  
14 custodian has expressed, either by statement or conduct, an intent to  
15 forego, for an extended period, parental rights or responsibilities  
16 despite an ability to exercise such rights and responsibilities. If  
17 the court finds that the petitioner has exercised due diligence in  
18 attempting to locate the parent, no contact between the child and the  
19 child's parent, guardian, or other custodian for a period of three  
20 months creates a rebuttable presumption of abandonment, even if there  
21 is no expressed intent to abandon.

22 (2) "Child," "juvenile," and "youth" means:

23 (a) Any individual under the age of eighteen years; or

24 (b) Any individual age eighteen to twenty-one years who is eligible  
25 to receive and who elects to receive the extended foster care services  
26 authorized under RCW 74.13.031. A youth who remains dependent and who  
27 receives extended foster care services under RCW 74.13.031 shall not be  
28 considered a "child" under any other statute or for any other purpose.

29 (3) "Current placement episode" means the period of time that  
30 begins with the most recent date that the child was removed from the  
31 home of the parent, guardian, or legal custodian for purposes of  
32 placement in out-of-home care and continues until: (a) The child  
33 returns home; (b) an adoption decree, a permanent custody order, or  
34 guardianship order is entered; or (c) the dependency is dismissed,  
35 whichever occurs first.

36 (4) "Department" means the department of social and health  
37 services.

1 (5) "Dependency guardian" means the person, nonprofit corporation,  
2 or Indian tribe appointed by the court pursuant to this chapter for the  
3 limited purpose of assisting the court in the supervision of the  
4 dependency.

5 (6) "Dependent child" means any child who:

6 (a) Has been abandoned;

7 (b) Is abused or neglected as defined in chapter 26.44 RCW by a  
8 person legally responsible for the care of the child;

9 (c) Has no parent, guardian, or custodian capable of adequately  
10 caring for the child, such that the child is in circumstances which  
11 constitute a danger of substantial damage to the child's psychological  
12 or physical development; or

13 (d) Is receiving extended foster care services, as authorized by  
14 RCW 74.13.031.

15 (7) "Developmental disability" means a disability attributable to  
16 intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, or another  
17 neurological or other condition of an individual found by the secretary  
18 to be closely related to an intellectual disability or to require  
19 treatment similar to that required for individuals with intellectual  
20 disabilities, which disability originates before the individual attains  
21 age eighteen, which has continued or can be expected to continue  
22 indefinitely, and which constitutes a substantial limitation to the  
23 individual.

24 (8) "Extended foster care services" means residential and other  
25 support services the department is authorized to provide under RCW  
26 74.13.031. These services may include placement in licensed, relative,  
27 or otherwise approved care, or supervised independent living settings;  
28 assistance in meeting basic needs; independent living services; medical  
29 assistance; and counseling or treatment.

30 (9) "Guardian" means the person or agency that: (a) Has been  
31 appointed as the guardian of a child in a legal proceeding, including  
32 a guardian appointed pursuant to chapter 13.36 RCW; and (b) has the  
33 legal right to custody of the child pursuant to such appointment. The  
34 term "guardian" does not include a "dependency guardian" appointed  
35 pursuant to a proceeding under this chapter.

36 (10) "Guardian ad litem" means a person, appointed by the court to  
37 represent the best interests of a child in a proceeding under this  
38 chapter, or in any matter which may be consolidated with a proceeding

1 under this chapter. A "court-appointed special advocate" appointed by  
2 the court to be the guardian ad litem for the child, or to perform  
3 substantially the same duties and functions as a guardian ad litem,  
4 shall be deemed to be guardian ad litem for all purposes and uses of  
5 this chapter.

6 (11) "Guardian ad litem program" means a court-authorized volunteer  
7 program, which is or may be established by the superior court of the  
8 county in which such proceeding is filed, to manage all aspects of  
9 volunteer guardian ad litem representation for children alleged or  
10 found to be dependent. Such management shall include but is not  
11 limited to: Recruitment, screening, training, supervision, assignment,  
12 and discharge of volunteers.

13 (12) "Housing assistance" means appropriate referrals by the  
14 department or other supervising agencies to federal, state, local, or  
15 private agencies or organizations, assistance with forms, applications,  
16 or financial subsidies or other monetary assistance for housing. For  
17 purposes of this chapter, "housing assistance" is not a remedial  
18 service or time-limited family reunification service as described in  
19 RCW 13.34.025(2).

20 (13) "Indigent" means a person who, at any stage of a court  
21 proceeding, is:

22 (a) Receiving one of the following types of public assistance:  
23 Temporary assistance for needy families, aged, blind, or disabled  
24 assistance benefits, medical care services under RCW 74.09.035,  
25 pregnant women assistance benefits, poverty-related veterans' benefits,  
26 food stamps or food stamp benefits transferred electronically, refugee  
27 resettlement benefits, medicaid, or supplemental security income; or

28 (b) Involuntarily committed to a public mental health facility; or

29 (c) Receiving an annual income, after taxes, of one hundred twenty-  
30 five percent or less of the federally established poverty level; or

31 (d) Unable to pay the anticipated cost of counsel for the matter  
32 before the court because his or her available funds are insufficient to  
33 pay any amount for the retention of counsel.

34 (14) "Out-of-home care" means placement in a foster family home or  
35 group care facility licensed pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW or placement  
36 in a home, other than that of the child's parent, guardian, or legal  
37 custodian, not required to be licensed pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW.

1 (15) "Preventive services" means preservation services, as defined  
2 in chapter 74.14C RCW, and other reasonably available services,  
3 including housing assistance, capable of preventing the need for out-  
4 of-home placement while protecting the child.

5 (16) "Shelter care" means temporary physical care in a facility  
6 licensed pursuant to RCW 74.15.030 or in a home not required to be  
7 licensed pursuant to RCW 74.15.030.

8 (17) "Sibling" means a child's birth brother, birth sister,  
9 adoptive brother, adoptive sister, half-brother, or half-sister, or as  
10 defined by the law or custom of the Indian child's tribe for an Indian  
11 child as defined in RCW 13.38.040.

12 (18) "Social study" means a written evaluation of matters relevant  
13 to the disposition of the case and shall contain the following  
14 information:

15 (a) A statement of the specific harm or harms to the child that  
16 intervention is designed to alleviate;

17 (b) A description of the specific services and activities, for both  
18 the parents and child, that are needed in order to prevent serious harm  
19 to the child; the reasons why such services and activities are likely  
20 to be useful; the availability of any proposed services; and the  
21 agency's overall plan for ensuring that the services will be delivered.  
22 The description shall identify the services chosen and approved by the  
23 parent;

24 (c) If removal is recommended, a full description of the reasons  
25 why the child cannot be protected adequately in the home, including a  
26 description of any previous efforts to work with the parents and the  
27 child in the home; the in-home treatment programs that have been  
28 considered and rejected; the preventive services, including housing  
29 assistance, that have been offered or provided and have failed to  
30 prevent the need for out-of-home placement, unless the health, safety,  
31 and welfare of the child cannot be protected adequately in the home;  
32 and the parents' attitude toward placement of the child;

33 (d) A statement of the likely harms the child will suffer as a  
34 result of removal;

35 (e) A description of the steps that will be taken to minimize the  
36 harm to the child that may result if separation occurs including an  
37 assessment of the child's relationship and emotional bond with any

1 siblings, and the agency's plan to provide ongoing contact between the  
2 child and the child's siblings if appropriate; and

3 (f) Behavior that will be expected before determination that  
4 supervision of the family or placement is no longer necessary.

5 (19) "Supervising agency" means an agency licensed by the state  
6 under RCW 74.15.090, or licensed by a federally recognized Indian tribe  
7 located in this state under RCW 74.15.190, that has entered into a  
8 performance-based contract with the department to provide case  
9 management for the delivery and documentation of child welfare services  
10 as defined in RCW 74.13.020.

11 (20) "Nonminor dependent" means any individual age eighteen to  
12 twenty-one years for whom there was an open dependency proceeding at  
13 the time that he or she reached the age of eighteen years, or who is  
14 released from the juvenile rehabilitation administration and had an  
15 open dependency proceeding at the time of his or her commitment, and  
16 who meets the eligibility requirements for extended foster care  
17 services authorized under RCW 74.13.031.

18 (21) "Supervised independent living" includes, but is not limited  
19 to, apartment living, room and board arrangements, college or  
20 university dormitories, and shared roommate settings.

21 **Sec. 3.** RCW 13.34.145 and 2011 c 330 s 6 are each amended to read  
22 as follows:

23 (1) The purpose of a permanency planning hearing is to review the  
24 permanency plan for the child, inquire into the welfare of the child  
25 and progress of the case, and reach decisions regarding the permanent  
26 placement of the child.

27 (a) A permanency planning hearing shall be held in all cases where  
28 the child has remained in out-of-home care for at least nine months and  
29 an adoption decree, guardianship order, or permanent custody order has  
30 not previously been entered. The hearing shall take place no later  
31 than twelve months following commencement of the current placement  
32 episode.

33 (b) Whenever a child is removed from the home of a dependency  
34 guardian or long-term relative or foster care provider, and the child  
35 is not returned to the home of the parent, guardian, or legal custodian  
36 but is placed in out-of-home care, a permanency planning hearing shall  
37 take place no later than twelve months, as provided in this section,

1 following the date of removal unless, prior to the hearing, the child  
2 returns to the home of the dependency guardian or long-term care  
3 provider, the child is placed in the home of the parent, guardian, or  
4 legal custodian, an adoption decree, guardianship order, or a permanent  
5 custody order is entered, or the dependency is dismissed. Every effort  
6 shall be made to provide stability in long-term placement, and to avoid  
7 disruption of placement, unless the child is being returned home or it  
8 is in the best interest of the child.

9 (c) Permanency planning goals should be achieved at the earliest  
10 possible date, preferably before the child has been in out-of-home care  
11 for fifteen months. In cases where parental rights have been  
12 terminated, the child is legally free for adoption, and adoption has  
13 been identified as the primary permanency planning goal, it shall be a  
14 goal to complete the adoption within six months following entry of the  
15 termination order.

16 (2) No later than ten working days prior to the permanency planning  
17 hearing, the agency having custody of the child shall submit a written  
18 permanency plan to the court and shall mail a copy of the plan to all  
19 parties and their legal counsel, if any.

20 (3) When the youth is at least age seventeen years but not older  
21 than seventeen years and six months, the department shall provide the  
22 youth with written documentation which explains the availability of  
23 extended foster care services and detailed instructions regarding how  
24 the youth may access such services after he or she reaches age eighteen  
25 years.

26 (4) At the permanency planning hearing, the court shall conduct the  
27 following inquiry:

28 (a) If a goal of long-term foster or relative care has been  
29 achieved prior to the permanency planning hearing, the court shall  
30 review the child's status to determine whether the placement and the  
31 plan for the child's care remain appropriate.

32 (b) In cases where the primary permanency planning goal has not  
33 been achieved, the court shall inquire regarding the reasons why the  
34 primary goal has not been achieved and determine what needs to be done  
35 to make it possible to achieve the primary goal. The court shall  
36 review the permanency plan prepared by the agency and make explicit  
37 findings regarding each of the following:

1 (i) The continuing necessity for, and the safety and  
2 appropriateness of, the placement;

3 (ii) The extent of compliance with the permanency plan by the  
4 department or supervising agency and any other service providers, the  
5 child's parents, the child, and the child's guardian, if any;

6 (iii) The extent of any efforts to involve appropriate service  
7 providers in addition to department or supervising agency staff in  
8 planning to meet the special needs of the child and the child's  
9 parents;

10 (iv) The progress toward eliminating the causes for the child's  
11 placement outside of his or her home and toward returning the child  
12 safely to his or her home or obtaining a permanent placement for the  
13 child;

14 (v) The date by which it is likely that the child will be returned  
15 to his or her home or placed for adoption, with a guardian or in some  
16 other alternative permanent placement; and

17 (vi) If the child has been placed outside of his or her home for  
18 fifteen of the most recent twenty-two months, not including any period  
19 during which the child was a runaway from the out-of-home placement or  
20 the first six months of any period during which the child was returned  
21 to his or her home for a trial home visit, the appropriateness of the  
22 permanency plan, whether reasonable efforts were made by the department  
23 or supervising agency to achieve the goal of the permanency plan, and  
24 the circumstances which prevent the child from any of the following:

25 (A) Being returned safely to his or her home;

26 (B) Having a petition for the involuntary termination of parental  
27 rights filed on behalf of the child;

28 (C) Being placed for adoption;

29 (D) Being placed with a guardian;

30 (E) Being placed in the home of a fit and willing relative of the  
31 child; or

32 (F) Being placed in some other alternative permanent placement,  
33 including independent living or long-term foster care.

34 At this hearing, the court shall order the department or  
35 supervising agency to file a petition seeking termination of parental  
36 rights if the child has been in out-of-home care for fifteen of the  
37 last twenty-two months since the date the dependency petition was filed  
38 unless the court makes a good cause exception as to why the filing of



1 a termination of parental rights petition is not appropriate. Any good  
2 cause finding shall be reviewed at all subsequent hearings pertaining  
3 to the child. For purposes of this section, "good cause exception"  
4 includes but is not limited to the following: The child is being cared  
5 for by a relative; the department has not provided to the child's  
6 family such services as the court and the department have deemed  
7 necessary for the child's safe return home; or the department has  
8 documented in the case plan a compelling reason for determining that  
9 filing a petition to terminate parental rights would not be in the  
10 child's best interests.

11 (c)(i) If the permanency plan identifies independent living as a  
12 goal, the court shall make a finding that the provision of services to  
13 assist the child in making a transition from foster care to independent  
14 living will allow the child to manage his or her financial, personal,  
15 social, educational, and nonfinancial affairs prior to approving  
16 independent living as a permanency plan of care. The court will  
17 inquire whether the child has been provided information about extended  
18 foster care services.

19 (ii) The permanency plan shall also specifically identify the  
20 services, including extended foster care services, where appropriate,  
21 that will be provided to assist the child to make a successful  
22 transition from foster care to independent living.

23 (iii) The department or supervising agency shall not discharge a  
24 child to an independent living situation before the child is eighteen  
25 years of age unless the child becomes emancipated pursuant to chapter  
26 13.64 RCW.

27 (d) If the child has resided in the home of a foster parent or  
28 relative for more than six months prior to the permanency planning  
29 hearing, the court shall:

30 (i) Enter a finding regarding whether the foster parent or relative  
31 was informed of the hearing as required in RCW 74.13.280, 13.34.215(6),  
32 and 13.34.096; and

33 (ii) If the department or supervising agency is recommending a  
34 placement other than the child's current placement with a foster  
35 parent, relative, or other suitable person, enter a finding as to the  
36 reasons for the recommendation for a change in placement.

37 ((+4)) (5) In all cases, at the permanency planning hearing, the  
38 court shall:

1 (a)(i) Order the permanency plan prepared by the supervising agency  
2 to be implemented; or  
3 (ii) Modify the permanency plan, and order implementation of the  
4 modified plan; and  
5 (b)(i) Order the child returned home only if the court finds that  
6 a reason for removal as set forth in RCW 13.34.130 no longer exists; or  
7 (ii) Order the child to remain in out-of-home care for a limited  
8 specified time period while efforts are made to implement the  
9 permanency plan.

10 ~~((+5))~~ (6) Following the first permanency planning hearing, the  
11 court shall hold a further permanency planning hearing in accordance  
12 with this section at least once every twelve months until a permanency  
13 planning goal is achieved or the dependency is dismissed, whichever  
14 occurs first.

15 ~~((+6))~~ (7) Prior to the second permanency planning hearing, the  
16 agency that has custody of the child shall consider whether to file a  
17 petition for termination of parental rights.

18 ~~((+7))~~ (8) If the court orders the child returned home, casework  
19 supervision by the department or supervising agency shall continue for  
20 at least six months, at which time a review hearing shall be held  
21 pursuant to RCW 13.34.138, and the court shall determine the need for  
22 continued intervention.

23 ~~((+8))~~ (9) The juvenile court may hear a petition for permanent  
24 legal custody when: (a) The court has ordered implementation of a  
25 permanency plan that includes permanent legal custody; and (b) the  
26 party pursuing the permanent legal custody is the party identified in  
27 the permanency plan as the prospective legal custodian. During the  
28 pendency of such proceeding, the court shall conduct review hearings  
29 and further permanency planning hearings as provided in this chapter.  
30 At the conclusion of the legal guardianship or permanent legal custody  
31 proceeding, a juvenile court hearing shall be held for the purpose of  
32 determining whether dependency should be dismissed. If a guardianship  
33 or permanent custody order has been entered, the dependency shall be  
34 dismissed.

35 ~~((+9))~~ (10) Continued juvenile court jurisdiction under this  
36 chapter shall not be a barrier to the entry of an order establishing a  
37 legal guardianship or permanent legal custody when the requirements of  
38 subsection ~~((+8))~~ (9) of this section are met.

1        ~~((10))~~ (11) Nothing in this chapter may be construed to limit the  
2 ability of the agency that has custody of the child to file a petition  
3 for termination of parental rights or a guardianship petition at any  
4 time following the establishment of dependency. Upon the filing of  
5 such a petition, a fact-finding hearing shall be scheduled and held in  
6 accordance with this chapter unless the department or supervising  
7 agency requests dismissal of the petition prior to the hearing or  
8 unless the parties enter an agreed order terminating parental rights,  
9 establishing guardianship, or otherwise resolving the matter.

10        ~~((11))~~ (12) The approval of a permanency plan that does not  
11 contemplate return of the child to the parent does not relieve the  
12 supervising agency of its obligation to provide reasonable services,  
13 under this chapter, intended to effectuate the return of the child to  
14 the parent, including but not limited to, visitation rights. The court  
15 shall consider the child's relationships with siblings in accordance  
16 with RCW 13.34.130.

17        ~~((12))~~ (13) Nothing in this chapter may be construed to limit the  
18 procedural due process rights of any party in a termination or  
19 guardianship proceeding filed under this chapter.

20        **Sec. 4.** RCW 13.34.267 and 2012 c 52 s 4 are each amended to read  
21 as follows:

22        (1) In order to facilitate the delivery of extended foster care  
23 services, the court shall postpone for six months the dismissal of a  
24 dependency proceeding for any ~~((child))~~ youth who is a dependent child  
25 in foster care at the age of eighteen years and who, at the time of his  
26 or her eighteenth birthday, is:

27        (a) Enrolled in a secondary education program or a secondary  
28 education equivalency program; ~~((or))~~

29        (b) Enrolled and participating in a postsecondary academic or  
30 postsecondary vocational program, or has applied for and can  
31 demonstrate that he or she intends to timely enroll in a postsecondary  
32 academic or postsecondary vocational program; or

33        (c) Participating in a program or activity designed to promote  
34 employment or remove barriers to employment.

35        (2) If the court maintains the dependency proceeding of a youth  
36 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the youth is eligible to

1 receive extended foster care services pursuant to RCW 74.13.031,  
2 subject to the youth's continuing eligibility and agreement to  
3 participate.

4 (3) A youth receiving extended foster care services is a party to  
5 the dependency proceeding. The youth's parent or guardian must be  
6 dismissed from the dependency proceeding when the youth reaches the age  
7 of eighteen.

8 (4) The court shall dismiss the dependency proceeding for any child  
9 who is a dependent child in foster care and who, at the age of eighteen  
10 years and six months, does not meet any of the criteria described in  
11 subsection (1)(a) through (c) of this section or does not agree to  
12 participate in the program.

13 ~~((2)(a) The six month postponement under this subsection is~~  
14 ~~intended to allow a reasonable window of opportunity for an eligible~~  
15 ~~youth who reaches the age of eighteen to request extended foster care~~  
16 ~~services from the department or supervising agency. The court shall~~  
17 ~~dismiss the dependency if the youth:~~

18 ~~(i) Has not requested extended foster care services from the~~  
19 ~~department by the end of the six month period; or~~

20 ~~(ii) Is no longer eligible for extended foster care services under~~  
21 ~~RCW 74.13.031(10) at any point during the six month period.~~

22 ~~(b) Until the youth requests to participate in the extended foster~~  
23 ~~care program, the department is relieved of any supervisory~~  
24 ~~responsibility for the youth.~~

25 ~~(3) A youth who participates in extended foster care while~~  
26 ~~completing a secondary education or equivalency program may continue to~~  
27 ~~receive extended foster care services for the purpose of participating~~  
28 ~~in a postsecondary academic or postsecondary vocational education~~  
29 ~~program if, at the time the secondary education or equivalency program~~  
30 ~~is completed, the youth has applied to and can demonstrate that he or~~  
31 ~~she intends to timely enroll in a postsecondary academic or vocational~~  
32 ~~education program. The dependency shall be dismissed if the youth~~  
33 ~~fails to timely enroll or continue in the postsecondary program, or~~  
34 ~~reaches age twenty one, whichever is earlier.~~

35 ~~(4) A youth receiving extended foster care services is a party to~~  
36 ~~the dependency proceeding. The youth's parent or guardian shall be~~  
37 ~~dismissed from the dependency proceeding when the youth reaches the age~~  
38 ~~of eighteen years.))~~

1 (5) The court shall order a youth participating in extended foster  
2 care services to be under the placement and care authority of the  
3 department, subject to the youth's continuing agreement to participate  
4 in extended foster care services. The department may establish foster  
5 care rates appropriate to the needs of the youth participating in  
6 extended foster care services.

7 (6) The court shall appoint counsel to represent a youth, as  
8 defined in RCW 13.34.030(2)(b), in dependency proceedings under this  
9 section.

10 (7) The case plan for and delivery of services to a youth receiving  
11 extended foster care services is subject to the review requirements set  
12 forth in RCW 13.34.138 and 13.34.145, and should be applied in a  
13 developmentally appropriate manner, as they relate to youth age  
14 eighteen to twenty-one years. Additionally, the court shall consider:

15 (a) Whether the youth is safe in his or her placement;

16 (b) Whether the youth continues to be eligible for extended foster  
17 care services;

18 (c) Whether the current placement is developmentally appropriate  
19 for the youth;

20 (d) The youth's development of independent living skills; and

21 (e) The youth's overall progress toward transitioning to full  
22 independence and the projected date for achieving such transition.

23 (8) Prior to the review hearing, the youth's attorney shall  
24 indicate whether there are any contested issues and may provide  
25 additional information necessary for the court's review.

26 (9) Upon the request of the youth, or when the youth is no longer  
27 eligible to receive extended foster care services according to rules  
28 adopted by the department, the court shall dismiss the dependency.

29 **Sec. 5.** RCW 74.13.020 and 2012 c 205 s 12 are each amended to read  
30 as follows:

31 For purposes of this chapter:

32 (1) "Case management" means convening family meetings, developing,  
33 revising, and monitoring implementation of any case plan or individual  
34 service and safety plan, coordinating and monitoring services needed by  
35 the child and family, caseworker-child visits, family visits, and the  
36 assumption of court-related duties, excluding legal representation,  
37 including preparing court reports, attending judicial hearings and

1 permanency hearings, and ensuring that the child is progressing toward  
2 permanency within state and federal mandates, including the Indian  
3 child welfare act.

4 (2) "Child" means:

5 (a) A person less than eighteen years of age; or

6 (b) A person age eighteen to twenty-one years who is eligible to  
7 receive the extended foster care services authorized under RCW  
8 74.13.031.

9 (3) "Child protective services" has the same meaning as in RCW  
10 26.44.020.

11 (4) "Child welfare services" means social services including  
12 voluntary and in-home services, out-of-home care, case management, and  
13 adoption services which strengthen, supplement, or substitute for,  
14 parental care and supervision for the purpose of:

15 (a) Preventing or remedying, or assisting in the solution of  
16 problems which may result in families in conflict, or the neglect,  
17 abuse, exploitation, or criminal behavior of children;

18 (b) Protecting and caring for dependent, abused, or neglected  
19 children;

20 (c) Assisting children who are in conflict with their parents, and  
21 assisting parents who are in conflict with their children, with  
22 services designed to resolve such conflicts;

23 (d) Protecting and promoting the welfare of children, including the  
24 strengthening of their own homes where possible, or, where needed;

25 (e) Providing adequate care of children away from their homes in  
26 foster family homes or day care or other child care agencies or  
27 facilities.

28 "Child welfare services" does not include child protection  
29 services.

30 (5) "Committee" means the child welfare transformation design  
31 committee.

32 (6) "Department" means the department of social and health  
33 services.

34 (7) "Extended foster care services" means residential and other  
35 support services the department is authorized to provide to foster  
36 children. These services may include(~~(, but are not limited to,)~~)  
37 placement in licensed, relative, or otherwise approved care, or

1 supervised independent living settings; assistance in meeting basic  
2 needs; independent living services; medical assistance; and counseling  
3 or treatment.

4 (8) "Measurable effects" means a statistically significant change  
5 which occurs as a result of the service or services a supervising  
6 agency is assigned in a performance-based contract, in time periods  
7 established in the contract.

8 (9) "Out-of-home care services" means services provided after the  
9 shelter care hearing to or for children in out-of-home care, as that  
10 term is defined in RCW 13.34.030, and their families, including the  
11 recruitment, training, and management of foster parents, the  
12 recruitment of adoptive families, and the facilitation of the adoption  
13 process, family reunification, independent living, emergency shelter,  
14 residential group care, and foster care, including relative placement.

15 (10) "Performance-based contracting" means the structuring of all  
16 aspects of the procurement of services around the purpose of the work  
17 to be performed and the desired results with the contract requirements  
18 set forth in clear, specific, and objective terms with measurable  
19 outcomes. Contracts shall also include provisions that link the  
20 performance of the contractor to the level and timing of reimbursement.

21 (11) "Permanency services" means long-term services provided to  
22 secure a child's safety, permanency, and well-being, including foster  
23 care services, family reunification services, adoption services, and  
24 preparation for independent living services.

25 (12) "Primary prevention services" means services which are  
26 designed and delivered for the primary purpose of enhancing child and  
27 family well-being and are shown, by analysis of outcomes, to reduce the  
28 risk to the likelihood of the initial need for child welfare services.

29 (13) "Supervising agency" means an agency licensed by the state  
30 under RCW 74.15.090, or licensed by a federally recognized Indian tribe  
31 located in this state under RCW 74.15.190, that has entered into a  
32 performance-based contract with the department to provide case  
33 management for the delivery and documentation of child welfare  
34 services, as defined in this section. This definition is applicable on  
35 or after December 30, 2015.

36 (14) "Nonminor dependent" means any individual age eighteen to  
37 twenty-one years for whom there was an open dependency proceeding at  
38 the time that he or she reached the age of eighteen years, or who is

1 released from the juvenile rehabilitation administration and had an  
2 open dependency proceeding at the time of his or her commitment, and  
3 who meets the eligibility requirements for extended foster care  
4 services authorized under RCW 74.13.031.

5 (15) "Supervised independent living" includes, but is not limited  
6 to, apartment living, room and board arrangements, college or  
7 university dormitories, and shared roommate settings.

8 **Sec. 6.** RCW 74.13.020 and 2012 c 259 s 7 and 2012 c 205 s 12 are  
9 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

10 For purposes of this chapter:

11 (1) "Case management" means convening family meetings, developing,  
12 revising, and monitoring implementation of any case plan or individual  
13 service and safety plan, coordinating and monitoring services needed by  
14 the child and family, caseworker-child visits, family visits, and the  
15 assumption of court-related duties, excluding legal representation,  
16 including preparing court reports, attending judicial hearings and  
17 permanency hearings, and ensuring that the child is progressing toward  
18 permanency within state and federal mandates, including the Indian  
19 child welfare act.

20 (2) "Child" means:

21 (a) A person less than eighteen years of age; or

22 (b) A person age eighteen to twenty-one years who is eligible to  
23 receive the extended foster care services authorized under RCW  
24 74.13.031.

25 (3) "Child protective services" has the same meaning as in RCW  
26 26.44.020.

27 (4) "Child welfare services" means social services including  
28 voluntary and in-home services, out-of-home care, case management, and  
29 adoption services which strengthen, supplement, or substitute for,  
30 parental care and supervision for the purpose of:

31 (a) Preventing or remedying, or assisting in the solution of  
32 problems which may result in families in conflict, or the neglect,  
33 abuse, exploitation, or criminal behavior of children;

34 (b) Protecting and caring for dependent, abused, or neglected  
35 children;

36 (c) Assisting children who are in conflict with their parents, and



1 assisting parents who are in conflict with their children, with  
2 services designed to resolve such conflicts;

3 (d) Protecting and promoting the welfare of children, including the  
4 strengthening of their own homes where possible, or, where needed;

5 (e) Providing adequate care of children away from their homes in  
6 foster family homes or day care or other child care agencies or  
7 facilities.

8 "Child welfare services" does not include child protection  
9 services.

10 (5) "Committee" means the child welfare transformation design  
11 committee.

12 (6) "Department" means the department of social and health  
13 services.

14 (7) "Extended foster care services" means residential and other  
15 support services the department is authorized to provide to foster  
16 children. These services include, but are not limited to, placement in  
17 licensed, relative, or otherwise approved care, or supervised  
18 independent living settings; assistance in meeting basic needs;  
19 independent living services; medical assistance; and counseling or  
20 treatment.

21 (8) "Family assessment" means a comprehensive assessment of child  
22 safety, risk of subsequent child abuse or neglect, and family strengths  
23 and needs that is applied to a child abuse or neglect report. Family  
24 assessment does not include a determination as to whether child abuse  
25 or neglect occurred, but does determine the need for services to  
26 address the safety of the child and the risk of subsequent  
27 maltreatment.

28 (9) "Measurable effects" means a statistically significant change  
29 which occurs as a result of the service or services a supervising  
30 agency is assigned in a performance-based contract, in time periods  
31 established in the contract.

32 (10) "Out-of-home care services" means services provided after the  
33 shelter care hearing to or for children in out-of-home care, as that  
34 term is defined in RCW 13.34.030, and their families, including the  
35 recruitment, training, and management of foster parents, the  
36 recruitment of adoptive families, and the facilitation of the adoption  
37 process, family reunification, independent living, emergency shelter,  
38 residential group care, and foster care, including relative placement.

1 (11) "Performance-based contracting" means the structuring of all  
2 aspects of the procurement of services around the purpose of the work  
3 to be performed and the desired results with the contract requirements  
4 set forth in clear, specific, and objective terms with measurable  
5 outcomes. Contracts shall also include provisions that link the  
6 performance of the contractor to the level and timing of reimbursement.

7 (12) "Permanency services" means long-term services provided to  
8 secure a child's safety, permanency, and well-being, including foster  
9 care services, family reunification services, adoption services, and  
10 preparation for independent living services.

11 (13) "Primary prevention services" means services which are  
12 designed and delivered for the primary purpose of enhancing child and  
13 family well-being and are shown, by analysis of outcomes, to reduce the  
14 risk to the likelihood of the initial need for child welfare services.

15 (14) "Supervising agency" means an agency licensed by the state  
16 under RCW 74.15.090, or licensed by a federally recognized Indian tribe  
17 located in this state under RCW 74.15.190, that has entered into a  
18 performance-based contract with the department to provide case  
19 management for the delivery and documentation of child welfare  
20 services, as defined in this section. This definition is applicable on  
21 or after December 30, 2015.

22 (15) "Nonminor dependent" means any individual age eighteen to  
23 twenty-one years for whom there was an open dependency proceeding at  
24 the time that he or she reached the age of eighteen years, or who is  
25 released from the juvenile rehabilitation administration and had an  
26 open dependency proceeding at the time of his or her commitment, and  
27 who meets the eligibility requirements for extended foster care  
28 services authorized under RCW 74.13.031.

29 (16) "Supervised independent living" includes, but is not limited  
30 to, apartment living, room and board arrangements, college or  
31 university dormitories, and shared roommate settings.

32 **Sec. 7.** RCW 74.13.031 and 2012 c 52 s 2 are each amended to read  
33 as follows:

34 (1) The department and supervising agencies shall develop,  
35 administer, supervise, and monitor a coordinated and comprehensive plan  
36 that establishes, aids, and strengthens services for the protection and  
37 care of runaway, dependent, or neglected children.

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

14           (3) The department shall investigate complaints of any recent act  
15 or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker that results in  
16 death, serious physical or emotional harm, or sexual abuse or  
17 exploitation, or that presents an imminent risk of serious harm, and on  
18 the basis of the findings of such investigation, offer child welfare  
19 services in relation to the problem to such parents, legal custodians,  
20 or persons serving in loco parentis, and/or bring the situation to the  
21 attention of an appropriate court, or another community agency. An  
22 investigation is not required of nonaccidental injuries which are  
23 clearly not the result of a lack of care or supervision by the child's  
24 parents, legal custodians, or persons serving in loco parentis. If the  
25 investigation reveals that a crime against a child may have been  
26 committed, the department shall notify the appropriate law enforcement  
27 agency.

28           (4) The department or supervising agencies shall offer, on a  
29 voluntary basis, family reconciliation services to families who are in  
30 conflict.

31           (5) The department or supervising agencies shall monitor placements  
32 of children in out-of-home care and in-home dependencies to assure the  
33 safety, well-being, and quality of care being provided is within the  
34 scope of the intent of the legislature as defined in RCW 74.13.010 and  
35 74.15.010. Under this section children in out-of-home care and in-home  
36 dependencies and their caregivers shall receive a private and  
37 individual face-to-face visit each month. The department and the  
38 supervising agencies shall randomly select no less than ten percent of

1 the caregivers currently providing care to receive one unannounced  
2 face-to-face visit in the caregiver's home per year. No caregiver will  
3 receive an unannounced visit through the random selection process for  
4 two consecutive years. If the caseworker makes a good faith effort to  
5 conduct the unannounced visit to a caregiver and is unable to do so,  
6 that month's visit to that caregiver need not be unannounced. The  
7 department and supervising agencies are encouraged to group monthly  
8 visits to caregivers by geographic area so that in the event an  
9 unannounced visit cannot be completed, the caseworker may complete  
10 other required monthly visits. The department shall use a method of  
11 random selection that does not cause a fiscal impact to the department.

12 The department or supervising agencies shall conduct the monthly  
13 visits with children and caregivers to whom it is providing child  
14 welfare services.

15 (6) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority to  
16 accept custody of children from parents and to accept custody of  
17 children from juvenile courts, where authorized to do so under law, to  
18 provide child welfare services including placement for adoption, to  
19 provide for the routine and necessary medical, dental, and mental  
20 health care, or necessary emergency care of the children, and to  
21 provide for the physical care of such children and make payment of  
22 maintenance costs if needed. Except where required by Public Law 95-  
23 608 (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1915), no private adoption agency which receives  
24 children for adoption from the department shall discriminate on the  
25 basis of race, creed, or color when considering applications in their  
26 placement for adoption.

27 (7) The department and supervising agency shall have authority to  
28 provide temporary shelter to children who have run away from home and  
29 who are admitted to crisis residential centers.

30 (8) The department and supervising agency shall have authority to  
31 purchase care for children.

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

1           (10)(a) The department and supervising agencies shall ~~((have~~  
2 ~~authority to))~~ provide continued extended foster care services to  
3 ~~((youth ages eighteen to twenty-one years to participate in or~~  
4 ~~complete))~~ nonminor dependents who are:

5           (i) Enrolled in a secondary education program or a secondary  
6 education equivalency program~~((, or))~~;

7           (ii) Enrolled and participating in a postsecondary academic or  
8 postsecondary vocational education program; or

9           (iii) Participating in a program or activity designed to promote  
10 employment or remove barriers to employment.

11          (b) The department shall develop and implement rules regarding  
12 youth eligibility requirements.

13          (11) The department shall have authority to provide adoption  
14 support benefits, or relative guardianship subsidies on behalf of youth  
15 ages eighteen to twenty-one years who achieved permanency through  
16 adoption or a relative guardianship at age sixteen or older and who  
17 meet the criteria described in subsection (10) of this section.

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

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

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

1 subsections, may be provided by any program offering such services  
2 funded pursuant to Titles II and III of the federal juvenile justice  
3 and delinquency prevention act of 1974.

4 (14) Within amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the  
5 supervising agency or department shall provide preventive services to  
6 families with children that prevent or shorten the duration of an out-  
7 of-home placement.

8 (15) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority  
9 to provide independent living services to youths, including individuals  
10 who have attained eighteen years of age, and have not attained twenty-  
11 one years of age who are or have been in foster care.

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

23 (17)(a) The department shall, within current funding levels, place  
24 on its public web site a document listing the duties and  
25 responsibilities the department has to a child subject to a dependency  
26 petition including, but not limited to, the following:

27 (i) Reasonable efforts, including the provision of services, toward  
28 reunification of the child with his or her family;

29 (ii) Sibling visits subject to the restrictions in RCW  
30 13.34.136(2)(b)(ii);

31 (iii) Parent-child visits;

32 (iv) Statutory preference for placement with a relative or other  
33 suitable person, if appropriate; and

34 (v) Statutory preference for an out-of-home placement that allows  
35 the child to remain in the same school or school district, if practical  
36 and in the child's best interests.

37 (b) The document must be prepared in conjunction with a community-  
38 based organization and must be updated as needed.

1           **Sec. 8.** RCW 74.13.031 and 2012 c 259 s 8 and 2012 c 52 s 2 are  
2 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

3           (1) The department and supervising agencies shall develop,  
4 administer, supervise, and monitor a coordinated and comprehensive plan  
5 that establishes, aids, and strengthens services for the protection and  
6 care of runaway, dependent, or neglected children.

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

20           (3) The department shall investigate complaints of any recent act  
21 or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker that results in  
22 death, serious physical or emotional harm, or sexual abuse or  
23 exploitation, or that presents an imminent risk of serious harm, and on  
24 the basis of the findings of such investigation, offer child welfare  
25 services in relation to the problem to such parents, legal custodians,  
26 or persons serving in loco parentis, and/or bring the situation to the  
27 attention of an appropriate court, or another community agency. An  
28 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  
31 investigation reveals that a crime against a child may have been  
32 committed, the department shall notify the appropriate law enforcement  
33 agency.

34           (4) As provided in RCW 26.44.030(11), the department may respond to  
35 a report of child abuse or neglect by using the family assessment  
36 response.

37           (5) The department or supervising agencies shall offer, on a

1 voluntary basis, family reconciliation services to families who are in  
2 conflict.

3 (6) The department or supervising agencies shall monitor placements  
4 of children in out-of-home care and in-home dependencies to assure the  
5 safety, well-being, and quality of care being provided is within the  
6 scope of the intent of the legislature as defined in RCW 74.13.010 and  
7 74.15.010. Under this section children in out-of-home care and in-home  
8 dependencies and their caregivers shall receive a private and  
9 individual face-to-face visit each month. The department and the  
10 supervising agencies shall randomly select no less than ten percent of  
11 the caregivers currently providing care to receive one unannounced  
12 face-to-face visit in the caregiver's home per year. No caregiver will  
13 receive an unannounced visit through the random selection process for  
14 two consecutive years. If the caseworker makes a good faith effort to  
15 conduct the unannounced visit to a caregiver and is unable to do so,  
16 that month's visit to that caregiver need not be unannounced. The  
17 department and supervising agencies are encouraged to group monthly  
18 visits to caregivers by geographic area so that in the event an  
19 unannounced visit cannot be completed, the caseworker may complete  
20 other required monthly visits. The department shall use a method of  
21 random selection that does not cause a fiscal impact to the department.

22 The department or supervising agencies shall conduct the monthly  
23 visits with children and caregivers to whom it is providing child  
24 welfare services.

25 (7) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority to  
26 accept custody of children from parents and to accept custody of  
27 children from juvenile courts, where authorized to do so under law, to  
28 provide child welfare services including placement for adoption, to  
29 provide for the routine and necessary medical, dental, and mental  
30 health care, or necessary emergency care of the children, and to  
31 provide for the physical care of such children and make payment of  
32 maintenance costs if needed. Except where required by Public Law 95-  
33 608 (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1915), no private adoption agency which receives  
34 children for adoption from the department shall discriminate on the  
35 basis of race, creed, or color when considering applications in their  
36 placement for adoption.

37 (8) The department and supervising agency shall have authority to



1 provide temporary shelter to children who have run away from home and  
2 who are admitted to crisis residential centers.

3 (9) The department and supervising agency shall have authority to  
4 purchase care for children.

5 (10) The department shall establish a children's services advisory  
6 committee with sufficient members representing supervising agencies  
7 which shall assist the secretary in the development of a partnership  
8 plan for utilizing resources of the public and private sectors, and  
9 advise on all matters pertaining to child welfare, licensing of child  
10 care agencies, adoption, and services related thereto. At least one  
11 member shall represent the adoption community.

12 (11)(a) The department and supervising agencies shall ~~((have~~  
13 ~~authority to))~~ provide continued extended foster care services to  
14 ~~((youth ages eighteen to twenty-one years to participate in or~~  
15 ~~complete))~~ nonminor dependents who are:

16 (i) Enrolled in a secondary education program or a secondary  
17 education equivalency program(~~, or~~);

18 (ii) Enrolled and participating in a postsecondary academic or  
19 postsecondary vocational education program; or

20 (iii) Participating in a program or activity designed to promote  
21 employment or remove barriers to employment.

22 (b) The department shall develop and implement rules regarding  
23 youth eligibility requirements.

24 (12) The department shall have authority to provide adoption  
25 support benefits, or relative guardianship subsidies on behalf of youth  
26 ages eighteen to twenty-one years who achieved permanency through  
27 adoption or a relative guardianship at age sixteen or older and who  
28 meet the criteria described in subsection (11) of this section.

29 (13) The department shall refer cases to the division of child  
30 support whenever state or federal funds are expended for the care and  
31 maintenance of a child, including a child with a developmental  
32 disability who is placed as a result of an action under chapter 13.34  
33 RCW, unless the department finds that there is good cause not to pursue  
34 collection of child support against the parent or parents of the child.  
35 Cases involving individuals age eighteen through twenty shall not be  
36 referred to the division of child support unless required by federal  
37 law.

1 (14) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority  
2 within funds appropriated for foster care services to purchase care for  
3 Indian children who are in the custody of a federally recognized Indian  
4 tribe or tribally licensed child-placing agency pursuant to parental  
5 consent, tribal court order, or state juvenile court order; and the  
6 purchase of such care shall be subject to the same eligibility  
7 standards and rates of support applicable to other children for whom  
8 the department purchases care.

9 Notwithstanding any other provision of RCW 13.32A.170 through  
10 13.32A.200 and 74.13.032 through 74.13.036, or of this section all  
11 services to be provided by the department under subsections (4), (7),  
12 and (8) of this section, subject to the limitations of these  
13 subsections, may be provided by any program offering such services  
14 funded pursuant to Titles II and III of the federal juvenile justice  
15 and delinquency prevention act of 1974.

16 (15) Within amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the  
17 supervising agency or department shall provide preventive services to  
18 families with children that prevent or shorten the duration of an out-  
19 of-home placement.

20 (16) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority  
21 to provide independent living services to youths, including individuals  
22 who have attained eighteen years of age, and have not attained twenty-  
23 one years of age who are or have been in foster care.

24 (17) The department and supervising agencies shall consult at least  
25 quarterly with foster parents, including members of the foster parent  
26 association of Washington state, for the purpose of receiving  
27 information and comment regarding how the department and supervising  
28 agencies are performing the duties and meeting the obligations  
29 specified in this section and RCW 74.13.250 and 74.13.320 regarding the  
30 recruitment of foster homes, reducing foster parent turnover rates,  
31 providing effective training for foster parents, and administering a  
32 coordinated and comprehensive plan that strengthens services for the  
33 protection of children. Consultation shall occur at the regional and  
34 statewide levels.

35 (18)(a) The department shall, within current funding levels, place  
36 on its public web site a document listing the duties and  
37 responsibilities the department has to a child subject to a dependency  
38 petition including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1 (i) Reasonable efforts, including the provision of services, toward  
2 reunification of the child with his or her family;
- 3 (ii) Sibling visits subject to the restrictions in RCW  
4 13.34.136(2)(b)(ii);
- 5 (iii) Parent-child visits;
- 6 (iv) Statutory preference for placement with a relative or other  
7 suitable person, if appropriate; and
- 8 (v) Statutory preference for an out-of-home placement that allows  
9 the child to remain in the same school or school district, if practical  
10 and in the child's best interests.
- 11 (b) The document must be prepared in conjunction with a community-  
12 based organization and must be updated as needed.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act applies prospectively only and not  
14 retroactively. It applies to:

15 (1) Dependency matters that have an open court case on the  
16 effective date of this section; and

17 (2) Dependency matters for which a petition is filed on or after  
18 the effective date of this section.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 5 and 7 of this act expire  
20 December 1, 2013.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 6 and 8 of this act take effect  
22 December 1, 2013.

--- END ---