
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5281

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Carrell, Darneille, Tom, Fain, and Roach)

READ FIRST TIME 02/15/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to an empirical study of the validity and
2 reliability of the current child welfare safety assessment tool; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The Washington state institute for public
6 policy shall conduct an empirical study of the validity and reliability
7 of the safety assessment tool currently used in child welfare cases by
8 the children's administration at the department of social and health
9 services. In conducting this study, the institute must identify: (1)
10 Whether other empirically based child welfare safety assessment tools
11 exist and, if so, compare those tools to the tool used by the
12 children's administration; (2) whether other factors or combination of
13 factors not included in the current safety assessment tool should be
14 included to help predict real outcomes; and (3) where possible, whether
15 there is unnecessary duplication in the application of the family
16 assessment tool used by the department.

17 As part of this study, the institute must consult with an advisory
18 group consisting of representatives of the research department at the
19 administrative office of the courts, the research and data analysis

1 division at the department of social and health services, a
2 university-based child welfare research entity, and caseworkers with
3 the children's administration who use the tool.

4 A report on the study is due to the appropriate policy committees
5 of the legislature by December 15, 2013.

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