
SENATE BILL 5281

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Carrell, Darneille, Tom, Fain, and Roach

Read first time 01/24/13. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

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 determine: (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; and (2) whether other factors or combination
13 of factors not included in the current safety assessment tool should be
14 included to help predict real outcomes.

15 As part of this study, the institute must consult with an advisory
16 group consisting of representatives of the research department at the
17 administrative office of the courts, the research and data analysis
18 division at the department of social and health services, and a
19 university-based child welfare research entity.

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

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