

**HB 2394** - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Human Services, Mental Health & Housing

**ADOPTED 03/02/2016**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** For over thirty years, parent to parent  
4 programs for individuals with either developmental disabilities, or  
5 special health care needs, or both, have been providing emotional and  
6 informational support by matching parents seeking support with an  
7 experienced and trained support parent.

8 The parent to parent program currently exists in thirty-one  
9 counties: Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Columbia,  
10 Cowlitz, Douglas, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island,  
11 Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Pacific,  
12 Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Walla Walla, Whatcom,  
13 Whitman, and Yakima. It is the legislature's goal to continue,  
14 support, and enhance the programs in these counties and expand these  
15 programs statewide by 2021.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.14  
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 The goals of the parent to parent program are to:

19 (1) Provide early outreach, support, and education to parents who  
20 have a child with special health care needs;

21 (2) Match a trained volunteer support parent with a new parent  
22 who has a child with similar needs to the child of the support  
23 parent; and

24 (3) Provide parents with tools and resources to be successful as  
25 they learn to understand the support and advocacy needs of their  
26 children.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.14  
28 RCW to read as follows:

1 Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this  
2 specific purpose, activities of the parent to parent program may  
3 include:

- 4 (1) Outreach and support to newly identified parents of children  
5 with special health care needs;
- 6 (2) Trainings that educate parents in ways to support their child  
7 and navigate the complex health, educational, and social systems;
- 8 (3) Ongoing peer support from a trained volunteer support parent;  
9 and
- 10 (4) Regular communication with other local programs to ensure  
11 consistent practices.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.14  
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this  
15 specific purpose, the parent to parent program must be funded through  
16 the department and centrally administered through a pass-through to a  
17 Washington state lead organization that has extensive experience  
18 supporting and training support parents.

19 (2) Through the contract with the lead organization, each local  
20 program must be locally administered by an organization that shall  
21 serve as the host organization.

22 (3) Parents shall serve as advisors to the host organizations.

23 (4) A parent or grandparent of a child with developmental  
24 disabilities or special health care needs shall provide program  
25 coordination and local program information.

26 (5) The lead organization shall provide ongoing training to the  
27 host organizations and statewide program oversight and maintain  
28 statewide program information.

29 (6) For the purpose of this act, "special health care needs"  
30 means disabilities, chronic illnesses or conditions, health related  
31 educational or behavioral problems, or the risk of developing such  
32 disabilities, conditions, illnesses or problems."

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1           On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "disabilities;" strike the  
2 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter  
3 71A.14 RCW; and creating a new section."

EFFECT: Clarifies that the parent to parent program applies both to individuals with developmental disabilities and/or special health care needs. Special health care needs is defined. Makes technical changes.

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