

SB 5486-S - DIGEST

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 2ND SUB)

Specifies that the parents for parents program currently exists in nine counties and has been shown to increase the number of family reunifications, where appropriate, while decreasing the length of time needed to establish permanence. The goal is to increase the permanency and well-being of children in foster care through peer mentoring that increases parental engagement and contributes to family reunification.

Authorizes the parents for parents program to provide structured peer mentoring, administered by child welfare parent mentors, for families entering the dependency court system.

Requires funding for the parents for parents program to be through the office of public defense and centrally administered through a pass-through to a state nonprofit-lead organization that has extensive experience supporting child welfare parent mentors.

Requires a research entity with experience in child welfare research to conduct an evaluation of the parents for parents program.