
HOUSE BILL 2008

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Kagi, Jenkins, and Senn

Read first time 02/07/17. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the budgeting process for core state services
2 for children; amending RCW 43.88C.010; adding a new section to
3 chapter 74.13 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.88 RCW; and
4 creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that effective
7 planning for and implementation of core state services for children
8 requires predictability and stability in the budgeting process for
9 these services. For these reasons, the legislature intends that costs
10 for child protective services and certain programs for foster
11 children be included in the state budgeting process at maintenance
12 level. By implementing consistent statewide assessments, forecasting
13 program caseloads, and incorporating forecast-based program costs
14 into the maintenance level budget, the state can ensure predictable
15 funding levels for these programs.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 The Washington state institute for public policy, in consultation
19 with the department, must develop a single validated tool to assess
20 the care needs of foster children. Once the validated tool is

1 available for use on a statewide basis, the department must use the
2 tool for assessing the care needs of foster children, including but
3 not limited to whether the department should provide foster children
4 with behavioral rehabilitation services. The department must notify
5 the caseload forecast council, the office of financial management,
6 and the appropriate fiscal committees of the legislature when it
7 begins statewide use of the validated tool.

8 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.88C.010 and 2015 c 128 s 2 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) The caseload forecast council is hereby created. The council
11 shall consist of two individuals appointed by the governor and four
12 individuals, one of whom is appointed by the chairperson of each of
13 the two largest political caucuses in the senate and house of
14 representatives. The chair of the council shall be selected from
15 among the four caucus appointees. The council may select such other
16 officers as the members deem necessary.

17 (2) The council shall employ a caseload forecast supervisor to
18 supervise the preparation of all caseload forecasts. As used in this
19 chapter, "supervisor" means the caseload forecast supervisor.

20 (3) Approval by an affirmative vote of at least five members of
21 the council is required for any decisions regarding employment of the
22 supervisor. Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after each
23 term of three years. At the end of the first year of each three-year
24 term the council shall consider extension of the supervisor's term by
25 one year. The council may fix the compensation of the supervisor. The
26 supervisor shall employ staff sufficient to accomplish the purposes
27 of this section.

28 (4) The caseload forecast council shall oversee the preparation
29 of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least four members, the
30 official state caseload forecasts prepared under RCW 43.88C.020. If
31 the council is unable to approve a forecast before a date required in
32 RCW 43.88C.020, the supervisor shall submit the forecast without
33 approval and the forecast shall have the same effect as if approved
34 by the council.

35 (5) A councilmember who does not cast an affirmative vote for
36 approval of the official caseload forecast may request, and the
37 supervisor shall provide, an alternative forecast based on
38 assumptions specified by the member.

1 (6) Members of the caseload forecast council shall serve without
2 additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses
3 in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the
4 council or on official business authorized by the council.
5 Nonlegislative members of the council shall be reimbursed for travel
6 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

7 (7) "Caseload," as used in this chapter, means:

8 (a) The number of persons expected to meet entitlement
9 requirements and require the services of public assistance programs,
10 state correctional institutions, state correctional noninstitutional
11 supervision, state institutions for juvenile offenders, the common
12 school system, long-term care, medical assistance, foster care and
13 related services as set forth in section 4 of this act, ((and))
14 adoption support, and screened-in reports of child abuse or neglect;

15 (b) The number of students who are eligible for the Washington
16 college bound scholarship program and are expected to attend an
17 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.92.030;

18 (c) The number of children who are eligible, as defined in RCW
19 43.215.405, to participate in, and the number of children actually
20 served by, the early childhood education and assistance program.

21 (8) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the temporary
22 assistance for needy families and the working connections child care
23 programs as a courtesy.

24 (9) The caseload forecast council shall forecast youth
25 participating in the extended foster care program pursuant to RCW
26 74.13.031 separately from other children who are residing in foster
27 care and who are under eighteen years of age.

28 (10) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the
29 definitions provided in RCW 43.88.020 apply to this chapter.

30 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 43.88
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 For the purposes of this chapter, the following foster care,
33 adoption support and related services, and child protective services
34 must be forecasted and budgeted as maintenance level costs:

35 (1) Behavioral rehabilitation services placements. The
36 requirements of this subsection apply only once the department is
37 using a single validated assessment tool on a statewide basis as
38 required by section 2 of this act;

1 (2) Social worker and related staff to receive, refer, and
2 respond to screened-in reports of child abuse or neglect;
3 (3) Court-ordered parent-child and sibling visitations; and
4 (4) Those activities currently being treated as maintenance level
5 costs for budgeting or forecasting purposes on the effective date of
6 this section, including, but not limited to: (a) Adoption support and
7 other adoption-related expenses; (b) foster care maintenance
8 payments; (c) child-placing agency management fees; (d) support goods
9 such as clothing vouchers; (e) child aides; and (f) child care for
10 children in foster or relative placements when the caregiver is in
11 work or school.

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