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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2256**

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**State of Washington**

**65th Legislature**

**2018 Regular Session**

**By** House Early Learning & Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Graves, Frame, Dent, Kagi, Tarleton, Fey, Eslick, Slatter, Muri, Hargrove, Dolan, Senn, McDonald, Reeves, Young, Kloba, Ormsby, Lovick, Doglio, Stonier, and Gregerson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/18/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to the online availability of foster parent  
2 preservice training; and reenacting and amending RCW 74.13.250.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.13.250 and 2009 c 520 s 71 and 2009 c 491 s 10  
5 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 (1) Preservice training is recognized as a valuable tool to  
7 reduce placement disruptions, the length of time children are in  
8 care, and foster parent turnover rates. Preservice training also  
9 assists potential foster parents in making their final decisions  
10 about foster parenting and assists social service agencies in  
11 obtaining information about whether to approve potential foster  
12 parents.

13 (2) Foster parent preservice training shall include information  
14 about the potential impact of placement on foster children; social  
15 service agency administrative processes; the requirements,  
16 responsibilities, expectations, and skills needed to be a foster  
17 parent; attachment, separation, and loss issues faced by birth  
18 parents, foster children, and foster parents; child management and  
19 discipline; birth family relationships; information on the limits of  
20 the adoption support program as provided in RCW (~~(74.13.109(4))~~)  
21 74.13A.020(4); and helping children leave foster care. Preservice

1 training shall assist applicants in making informed decisions about  
2 whether they want to be foster parents. Preservice training shall be  
3 designed to enable the agency to assess the ability, readiness, and  
4 appropriateness of families to be foster parents. As a decision tool,  
5 effective preservice training provides potential foster parents with  
6 enough information to make an appropriate decision, affords potential  
7 foster parents an opportunity to discuss their decision with others  
8 and consider its implications for their family, clarifies foster  
9 family expectations, presents a realistic picture of what foster  
10 parenting involves, and allows potential foster parents to consider  
11 and explore the different types of children they might serve.

12 (3) Foster parents shall complete preservice training before the  
13 issuance of a foster care license, except that the department may, on  
14 a case by case basis, issue a written waiver that allows the foster  
15 parent to complete the training after licensure, so long as the  
16 training is completed within ninety days following licensure.

17 (4) All components of the foster parent preservice training shall  
18 be made available online. The department shall allow individuals to  
19 complete as much online preservice training as is practicable while  
20 requiring that some preservice training be completed in person.

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