

2SSB 5718 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Human Services & Early Learning

NOT CONSIDERED 04/11/2019

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Beginning July 1, 2020, the department shall establish a
6 child welfare housing assistance pilot program, which provides
7 housing vouchers, rental assistance, navigation, and other support
8 services to eligible families.

9 (a) The department shall operate or contract for the operation of
10 the child welfare housing assistance pilot program under subsection
11 (3) of this section in one county west of the crest of the Cascade
12 mountain range and one county east of the crest of the Cascade
13 mountain range.

14 (b) The child welfare housing assistance pilot program is
15 intended to shorten the time that children remain in out-of-home
16 care.

17 (2) A parent with a child who is dependent pursuant to chapter
18 13.34 RCW and whose primary remaining barrier to reunification is the
19 lack of appropriate housing is eligible for the child welfare housing
20 assistance pilot program.

21 (3) The department shall contract with an outside entity or
22 entities to operate the child welfare housing assistance pilot
23 program. If no outside entity or entities are available to operate
24 the program or specific parts of the program, the department may
25 operate the program or the specific parts that are not operated by an
26 outside entity.

27 (4) Families may be referred to the child welfare housing
28 assistance pilot program by a caseworker, an attorney, a guardian ad
29 litem as defined in chapter 13.34 RCW, a child welfare parent mentor
30 as defined in RCW 2.70.060, an office of public defense social
31 worker, or the court.

1 (5) The department shall consult with a stakeholder group that
2 must include, but is not limited to, the following:

3 (a) Parent allies;

4 (b) Parent attorneys and social workers managed by the office of
5 public defense parent representation program;

6 (c) The department of commerce;

7 (d) Housing experts;

8 (e) Community-based organizations;

9 (f) Advocates; and

10 (g) Behavioral health providers.

11 (6) The stakeholder group established in subsection (5) of this
12 section shall begin meeting after the effective date of this section
13 and assist the department in design of the child welfare housing
14 assistance pilot program in areas including, but not limited to:

15 (a) Equitable racial, geographic, ethnic, and gender distribution
16 of program support;

17 (b) Eligibility criteria;

18 (c) Creating a definition of homeless for purposes of eligibility
19 for the program; and

20 (d) Options for program design that include outside entities
21 operating the entire program or specific parts of the program.

22 (7) By December 1, 2021, the department shall report outcomes for
23 the child welfare housing assistance pilot program to the oversight
24 board for children, youth, and families established pursuant to RCW
25 43.216.015. The report must include racial, geographic, ethnic, and
26 gender distribution of program support.

27 (8) The child welfare housing assistance pilot program
28 established in this section is subject to the availability of funds
29 appropriated for this purpose.

30 (9) This section expires June 30, 2022."

31 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Limits the child welfare housing assistance pilot program
to one county in Eastern Washington and one county in Western
Washington.

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