

SSB 5955 - H AMD TO HSEL COMM AMD (H-2469.1/19) **502**
By Representative Senn

ADOPTED 04/04/2019

1 On page 46, after line 16, insert the following:

2 "Sec. 29. RCW 74.13.270 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 20 s 1 are each
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (1) The legislature recognizes the need for temporary short-term
5 relief for foster parents who care for children with emotional,
6 mental, or physical (~~handicaps~~) disabilities. For purposes of this
7 section, respite care means appropriate, temporary, short-term care
8 for these foster children placed with licensed foster parents. The
9 purpose of this care is to give the foster parents temporary relief
10 from the stresses associated with the care of these foster children.
11 The department shall design a program of respite care that will
12 minimize disruptions to the child and will serve foster parents
13 within these priorities, based on input from foster parents, foster
14 parent associations, and reliable research if available.

15 (2)(a) For the purposes of this section, and subject to funding
16 appropriated specifically for this purpose, short-term support shall
17 include case aides who provide temporary assistance to foster parents
18 as needed with the overall goal of supporting the parental efforts of
19 the foster parents except that this assistance shall not include
20 overnight assistance. The department shall contract with nonprofit
21 community-based organizations in each region to establish a statewide
22 pool of individuals to provide the support described in this
23 subsection. These individuals shall be (~~hired by~~) employees or
24 volunteers with the nonprofit community-based organization and shall
25 have the appropriate training, background checks, and qualifications
26 as determined by the department. Short-term support as described in
27 this subsection shall be available to all licensed foster parents in
28 the state as funding is available and shall be phased in by
29 geographic region. To obtain the assistance of a case aide for this
30 purpose, the foster parent may request the services from the
31 nonprofit community-based organization and the nonprofit community-
32 based organization may offer assistance to licensed foster families.

1 If the requests for the short-term support provided in this
2 subsection exceed the funding available, the nonprofit community-
3 based organization shall have discretion to determine the assignment
4 of case aides. The nonprofit community-based organization shall
5 report all short-term support provided under this subsection to the
6 department.

7 (b) Subject to funding appropriated specifically for this
8 purpose, the Washington state institute for public policy shall
9 prepare an outcome evaluation of the short-term support described in
10 this subsection. The evaluation will, to the maximum extent possible,
11 assess the impact of the short-term support services described in
12 this subsection on the retention of foster homes and the number of
13 placements a foster child receives while in out-of-home care as well
14 as the return on investment to the state. The institute shall submit
15 a preliminary report to the appropriate committees of the legislature
16 and the governor by December 1, 2018, that describes the initial
17 implementation of these services and descriptive statistics of the
18 families utilizing these services. A final report shall be submitted
19 to the appropriate committees of the legislature by June 30, ((2020))
20 2021. At no cost to the institute, the department shall provide all
21 data necessary to discharge this duty.

22 (c) Costs associated with case aides as described in this
23 subsection shall not be included in the forecast.

24 (d) Pursuant to RCW 41.06.142(3), performance-based contracting
25 under (a) of this subsection is expressly mandated by the legislature
26 and is not subject to the processes set forth in RCW 41.06.142 (1),
27 (4), and (5)."

28 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Allows short-term case aides who provide temporary assistance to foster parents to be volunteers with a nonprofit community organization contracted by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. Extends the due date of a report on short-term case aides from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy from June 30, 2020, to June 30, 2021.

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