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**SENATE BILL 5096**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senator O'Ban

Prefiled 01/07/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to short-term case aides that provide temporary  
2 assistance for foster parents; and amending RCW 74.13.270.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.13.270 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 20 s 1 are each  
5 amended to read as follows:

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

17 (2)(a) For the purposes of this section, and subject to funding  
18 appropriated specifically for this purpose, short-term support shall  
19 include case aides who provide temporary assistance to foster parents  
20 as needed with the overall goal of supporting the parental efforts of  
21 the foster parents except that this assistance shall not include

1 overnight assistance. The department shall contract with nonprofit  
2 community-based organizations in each region to establish a statewide  
3 pool of individuals to provide the support described in this  
4 subsection. These individuals shall be (~~hired by~~) employees or  
5 volunteers with the nonprofit community-based organization and shall  
6 have the appropriate training, background checks, and qualifications  
7 as determined by the department. Short-term support as described in  
8 this subsection shall be available to all licensed foster parents in  
9 the state as funding is available and shall be phased in by  
10 geographic region. To obtain the assistance of a case aide for this  
11 purpose, the foster parent may request the services from the  
12 nonprofit community-based organization and the nonprofit community-  
13 based organization may offer assistance to licensed foster families.  
14 If the requests for the short-term support provided in this  
15 subsection exceed the funding available, the nonprofit community-  
16 based organization shall have discretion to determine the assignment  
17 of case aides. The nonprofit community-based organization shall  
18 report all short-term support provided under this subsection to the  
19 department.

20 (b) Subject to funding appropriated specifically for this  
21 purpose, the Washington state institute for public policy shall  
22 prepare an outcome evaluation of the short-term support described in  
23 this subsection. The evaluation will, to the maximum extent possible,  
24 assess the impact of the short-term support services described in  
25 this subsection on the retention of foster homes and the number of  
26 placements a foster child receives while in out-of-home care as well  
27 as the return on investment to the state. The institute shall submit  
28 a preliminary report to the appropriate committees of the legislature  
29 and the governor by December 1, 2018, that describes the initial  
30 implementation of these services and descriptive statistics of the  
31 families utilizing these services. A final report shall be submitted  
32 to the appropriate committees of the legislature by June 30, 2020. At  
33 no cost to the institute, the department shall provide all data  
34 necessary to discharge this duty.

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

37 (d) Pursuant to RCW 41.06.142(3), performance-based contracting  
38 under (a) of this subsection is expressly mandated by the legislature

1 and is not subject to the processes set forth in RCW 41.06.142 (1),  
2 (4), and (5).

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