

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1237

As of March 17, 2021

Title: An act relating to defining family resource centers.

Brief Description: Defining family resource centers.

Sponsors: Representatives Eslick, Senn, Leavitt, Callan, Ortiz-Self, Rude, Davis, Santos, Rule, Goodman and Riccelli.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/3/21, 94-1.

Committee Activity: Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation: 3/18/21.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Defines the term "family resource center" to mean a unified single point of entry where families, individuals, children, and youth in communities can obtain information, an assessment of needs, referral to, or direct delivery of family services in a manner that is welcoming and strength-based.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, REENTRY & REHABILITATION

Staff: Alison Mendiola (786-7488)

Background: A family resource center (FRC) generally refers to community-based resource hubs where families can access formal and informal supports to promote their health and well-being. These FRCs are sometimes located in apartment complexes, schools, health centers, libraries, community centers, storefronts, and churches, among other places.

The National Family Support Network (NFSN) is made up of statewide networks of two or more family support and strengthening programs, such as FRCs. According to the NFSN, FRCs most commonly offer parenting support, access to resources, child development

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activities, and parent leadership development services.

Other terms are sometimes used to describe the same type of services provided by an FRC, such as:

- family support center (FSC);
- family center;
- family success center; and
- parent child center.

There are a number of FRCs or FSCs throughout Washington.

Summary of Bill: It is the stated intent of the Legislature to provide a common definition for family resource centers across the state in an effort to establish a core set of principles for existing and newly forming family resource centers. The Legislature finds family resource centers play a critical role in preventing child abuse and neglect, strengthening children and families, connecting family-impacting agencies and programs, creating opportunities for community-level coordination, and creating connections to resources and support systems.

An "FRC" is defined as a unified single point of entry where families, individuals, children, and youth in communities can obtain information, an assessment of needs, referral to, or direct delivery of family services in a welcoming and strength-based manner. An FRC is designed to meet the needs, cultures, and interests of the communities the FRC serves.

Family services may be delivered directly to a family at the FRC by the FRC staff or by providers who contract with or have provider agreements with the FRC.

Each FRC must have one or more family advocate who screens and assesses a family's needs and strengths.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.