
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5824

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation (originally sponsored by Senators Nobles, Mullet, Carlyle, Conway, Frockt, Hasegawa, Keiser, Lovelett, Nguyen, Rivers, Robinson, Stanford, Trudeau, Wagoner, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing dependent youth with financial
2 education and support; adding a new section to chapter 74.13 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that many youth
6 exiting foster care have not been financially prepared for a
7 successful transition to independence. The legislature finds that
8 financial awareness can play a key role in ensuring safe and stable
9 housing and long-term economic well-being. The legislature recognizes
10 that through passage of Substitute Senate Bill No. 6560 in 2018, the
11 legislature established the goal of discharging all youth from state
12 care into safe and stable housing. Therefore, the legislature
13 resolves to create a program to aid young people in foster care with
14 establishing private self-controlled banking accounts to promote
15 successful transition from foster care into independence.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) The department shall develop a program to provide eligible
19 youth with the ability to establish a private self-controlled bank
20 account with a financial institution.

1 (a) Caseworkers shall provide an eligible youth with the
2 opportunity to open a private self-controlled bank account with a
3 financial institution. If interested, the eligible youth may open the
4 account with assistance from any supportive adult, including but not
5 limited to: Independent living service providers, caregivers,
6 caseworkers, kinship and other family members, attorneys, and
7 supportive adults in the community which may include mentors,
8 teachers, and coaches. It is the department's responsibility to
9 ensure that every eligible youth receives information about this
10 program beginning at age 14, and to determine whether a youth has
11 established a private self-controlled bank account at the youth's
12 shared planning meeting that is used to develop a transition plan, as
13 provided for in this chapter. If it is determined that an eligible
14 youth has not established a private self-controlled bank account at
15 the time of the shared planning meeting, information on opening a
16 bank account with a financial institution must be included in a
17 youth's transition plan.

18 (b) The department shall deposit a minimum of \$25 per month into
19 an eligible youth's bank account as established under this program.
20 Eligible youth may opt out of receiving minimum deposits under this
21 section at any time. It is the department's responsibility to inform
22 the eligible youth about the impact that deposits could have on
23 public benefit eligibility.

24 (c) The program is to be fully operational by January 1, 2023.

25 (d) The department shall conduct an annual electronic survey of
26 15 percent of eligible youth as a method of program evaluation.

27 (e) An eligible youth is a dependent youth ages 14 and up,
28 including youth in extended foster care, and remains eligible to open
29 a bank account with the financial support of the department until the
30 dependency proceeding is dismissed.

31 (2)(a) The department shall convene a group of stakeholders to
32 develop the implementation plan of this program and to ensure
33 statewide access to high quality, developmentally, and culturally
34 appropriate financial education to dependent youth ages 12 and up.
35 The stakeholders shall develop a survey for eligible youth to help
36 determine the effectiveness of the program, including whether the
37 eligible youth has established a self-controlled bank account. The
38 department is encouraged to utilize existing resources readily
39 available including those provided by the department of financial
40 institutions, among other agencies and programs. Stakeholders shall

1 include, but are not limited to: Current or former foster youth,
2 current or former caregivers, including kinship caregivers, the
3 financial education public-private partnership, financial
4 institutions, and those with expertise in providing financial
5 education or mentorship to youth ages 12 and up.

6 (b) By December 1, 2022, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
7 the department shall submit a report on the work of the stakeholder
8 group as well as the status of the program implementation to the
9 appropriate committees of the legislature and the governor. By
10 December 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the department shall
11 submit a report summarizing the results of the survey as provided for
12 in subsection (1) of this section to the appropriate committees of
13 the legislature.

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