

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6068

As of January 19, 2024

Title: An act relating to reporting on dependency outcomes.

Brief Description: Reporting on dependency outcomes.

Sponsors: Senators Boehnke and Wilson, C..

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Human Services: 1/22/24.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Revises the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) annual dependency outcome reporting requirements.
- Directs the AOC, in consultation with other agencies and entities with relevant data or expertise, to identify measures of relational permanency and child well-being and report its findings to the Legislature by July 1, 2025, subject to appropriations.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Staff: Alison Mendiola (786-7488)

Background: The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), in consultation with the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Children, Youth and Families, is directed by statute to compile an annual report providing information about cases that fail to meet statutory guidelines to achieve permanency for dependent children. This report is submitted to the Legislature and a representative of the Foster Parent Association of Washington State on December 1st of each year.

The annual report also includes information about:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

- whether foster parents received timely notification of dependency hearings as required by statute; and
- whether caregivers submitted reports to the court.

The AOC develops standard court forms for mandatory use by parties in dependency matters. The AOC provides these forms to all county court clerks.

Summary of Bill: The bill as referred to committee not considered.

Summary of Bill (Proposed Substitute): AOC's annual dependency report is to include information about dependency cases including available data about whether children in Washington State dependency cases are achieving relational permanency, whether cases meet statutory guidelines, and reasons why timelines are not met.

AOC is to submit the annual report to the Office of Civil Legal Aid, and the Washington State Office of Public Defense.

Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the AOC is to, in consultation with others, identify measures of relational permanency and child well-being and shall report to the Legislature by July 1, 2025, in compliance with state law, the following information:

- a plan for reporting on child well-being and relational permanency;
- how to make such information publicly available;
- what can be reported using existing data;
- what additional information should be collected; and
- what data-sharing agreements are necessary to ensure an accurate picture of the needs of families in the dependency system.

In making these determinations, the AOC must consult with representatives who have knowledge of data collection systems from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI); the Health Care Authority (HCA); the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF); the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS); and any other entity holding relevant data or expertise.

To collect data necessary to evaluate the relational permanency and well-being of dependent children, the AOC may execute data-sharing agreements with OSPI, HCA, DCYF, and DSHS.

Court forms may indicate whether an order or portion of an order was agreed or contested, and if contested, by which party or parties.

Appropriation: The bill contains a section or sections to limit implementation to the availability of amounts appropriated for that specific purpose.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 18, 2024.

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

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