
SENATE BILL 5419

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Gildon, Billig, Lias, Mullet, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/17/23. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to removing the requirement that the Washington
2 state institute of public policy conduct an outcome evaluation of
3 case aides who provide short-term relief for certain foster families;
4 and amending RCW 74.13.270.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.13.270 and 2019 c 470 s 29 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

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

19 (2)(a) For the purposes of this section, and subject to funding
20 appropriated specifically for this purpose, short-term support shall
21 include case aides who provide temporary assistance to foster parents

1 as needed with the overall goal of supporting the parental efforts of
2 the foster parents except that this assistance shall not include
3 overnight assistance. The department shall contract with nonprofit
4 community-based organizations in each region to establish a statewide
5 pool of individuals to provide the support described in this
6 subsection. These individuals shall be employees or volunteers with
7 the nonprofit community-based organization and shall have the
8 appropriate training, background checks, and qualifications as
9 determined by the department. Short-term support as described in this
10 subsection shall be available to all licensed foster parents in the
11 state as funding is available and shall be phased in by geographic
12 region. To obtain the assistance of a case aide for this purpose, the
13 foster parent may request the services from the nonprofit community-
14 based organization and the nonprofit community-based organization may
15 offer assistance to licensed foster families. If the requests for the
16 short-term support provided in this subsection exceed the funding
17 available, the nonprofit community-based organization shall have
18 discretion to determine the assignment of case aides. The nonprofit
19 community-based organization shall report all short-term support
20 provided under this subsection to the department.

21 ~~(b) ((Subject to funding appropriated specifically for this~~
22 ~~purpose, the Washington state institute for public policy shall~~
23 ~~prepare an outcome evaluation of the short-term support described in~~
24 ~~this subsection. The evaluation will, to the maximum extent possible,~~
25 ~~assess the impact of the short-term support services described in~~
26 ~~this subsection on the retention of foster homes and the number of~~
27 ~~placements a foster child receives while in out-of-home care as well~~
28 ~~as the return on investment to the state. The institute shall submit~~
29 ~~a preliminary report to the appropriate committees of the legislature~~
30 ~~and the governor by December 1, 2018, that describes the initial~~
31 ~~implementation of these services and descriptive statistics of the~~
32 ~~families utilizing these services. A final report shall be submitted~~
33 ~~to the appropriate committees of the legislature by June 30, 2021. At~~
34 ~~no cost to the institute, the department shall provide all data~~
35 ~~necessary to discharge this duty.~~

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

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

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

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