

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5199

As Passed Senate, February 5, 2025

Title: An act relating to providing compensation to members of the department of children, youth, and families oversight board with direct lived experience.

Brief Description: Providing compensation to members of the department of children, youth, and families oversight board with direct lived experience.

Sponsors: Senators Wilson, C., Frame, Hasegawa, Lovelett, Lovick, Nobles and Riccelli.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Human Services: 1/20/25, 1/22/25 [DP].

Floor Activity: Passed Senate: 2/5/25, 49-0.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Provides that the Department of Children, Youth, and Families Oversight Board members with direct lived experience may receive compensation and are entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses, as provided in statute.
- Defines direct lived experience.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Wilson, C., Chair; Frame, Vice Chair; Christian, Ranking Member; Orwall and Warnick.

Staff: Alison Mendiola (786-7488)

Background: Department of Children, Youth and Families Oversight Board. The Oversight Board for the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (Oversight Board)

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.

was created in 2017, along with the creation of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). The Oversight Board monitors and ensures that DCYF achieves certain outcomes and complies with policies and rules.

The Oversight Board includes 21 members including at least three members with direct lived experience:

- one current or former foster parent representative;
- one current or former foster youth under age 25; and
- one individual under age 25 with current or previous experience with the juvenile justice system.

The Oversight Board members are to be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred while conducting business of the Oversight Board when authorized by the Oversight Board and within resources allocated for that purpose. Legislative members of the Oversight Board are reimbursed for travel expenses according to statute.

Compensation for Members of Part-Time Boards and Commissions. Any part-time board, commission, council, committee, or other similar group which is established by the executive, legislative, or judicial branch to participate in state government and which functions primarily in an advisory, coordinating, or planning capacity shall be identified as a class one group. Unless otherwise identified in law, all newly formed and existing groups are a class one group.

To support their participation in class one groups, individuals who are low-income or have direct lived experience may receive a stipend of up to \$200 for each day in which the individual attends an official meeting or performs a statutorily prescribed duty approved by the chairperson of the group, provided that the individuals are not otherwise compensated for their attendance at meetings. Individuals eligible for stipends are eligible for reasonable allowances for child and adult care reimbursement, lodging, and travel expenses, in addition to stipend amounts, in accordance with state law.

"Low income" means an individual whose income is not more than 400 percent of the federal poverty level, adjusted for family size. "Direct lived experience" means direct personal experience in the subject matter being addressed by the board, commission, council, committee, or other similar group.

Summary of Bill: The Oversight Board members with direct lived experience may receive compensation and are entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses, as provided in statute.

Direct lived experience has the same meaning as provided in statute.

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.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The DCYF Oversight Board was created when DCYF was created in 2017. The Board is tasked with monitoring and overseeing the work of DCYF, among other things. The Board includes members with direct lived experience who are not being paid for their participation. Allowing compensation for Board members with lived experience aligns with legislation passed in 2022 and 2023, known as nothing about us without us, which confirms the importance of having those with lived experience participating on relevant boards.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Claire Wilson, Prime Sponsor.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.