
SENATE BILL 5617

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators C. Wilson, Frame, Hasegawa, Lovelett, Lovick, Nobles, Trudeau, and Valdez

Read first time 01/31/25. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing for a child in need of services
2 petition process for juveniles in and exiting detention; amending RCW
3 13.32A.045, 13.32A.150, 13.32A.152, 13.32A.160, 13.32A.170,
4 13.32A.179, and 43.330.724; reenacting and amending RCW 13.32A.030;
5 and adding new sections to chapter 13.32A RCW.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** RCW 13.32A.030 and 2020 c 51 s 1 are each reenacted and
8 amended to read as follows:

9 As used in this chapter the following terms have the meanings
10 indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

11 (1) "Abuse or neglect" means the injury, sexual abuse, sexual
12 exploitation, negligent treatment, or maltreatment of a child by any
13 person under circumstances that indicate the child's health, welfare,
14 and safety is harmed, excluding conduct permitted under RCW
15 9A.16.100. An abused child is a child who has been subjected to child
16 abuse or neglect as defined in this section.

17 (2) "Administrator" means the individual who has the daily
18 administrative responsibility of a crisis residential center, or his
19 or her designee.

20 (3) "At-risk youth" means a juvenile:

1 (a) Who is absent from home for at least (~~seventy-two~~) 72
2 consecutive hours without consent of his or her parent;

3 (b) Who is beyond the control of his or her parent such that the
4 child's behavior endangers the health, safety, or welfare of the
5 child or any other person; or

6 (c) Who has a substance abuse problem for which there are no
7 pending criminal charges related to the substance abuse.

8 (4) "Child," "juvenile," "youth," and "minor" mean any
9 unemancipated individual who is under the chronological age of
10 (~~eighteen~~) 18 years.

11 (5) "Child in need of services" means a juvenile:

12 (a) Who is beyond the control of his or her parent such that the
13 child's behavior endangers the health, safety, or welfare of the
14 child or any other person;

15 (b) Who has been reported to law enforcement as absent without
16 consent for at least (~~twenty-four~~) 24 consecutive hours on two or
17 more separate occasions from the home of either parent, a crisis
18 residential center, an out-of-home placement, or a court-ordered
19 placement; and

20 (i) Has exhibited a serious substance abuse problem; or

21 (ii) Has exhibited behaviors that create a serious risk of harm
22 to the health, safety, or welfare of the child or any other person;

23 (c) (i) Who is in need of: (A) Necessary services, including food,
24 shelter, health care, clothing, or education; or (B) services
25 designed to maintain or reunite the family;

26 (ii) Who lacks access to, or has declined to use, these services;
27 and

28 (iii) Whose parents have evidenced continuing but unsuccessful
29 efforts to maintain the family structure or are unable or unwilling
30 to continue efforts to maintain the family structure; (~~or~~)

31 (d) Who is a "sexually exploited child(~~or~~)"; or

32 (e) Who reasonably believes that there will be no parent, legal
33 guardian, or responsible adult to whom they can be released when
34 legal jurisdiction to detain ends.

35 (6) "Child in need of services petition" means a petition filed
36 in juvenile court by a parent, child, or the department seeking
37 adjudication of placement of the child.

38 (7) "Community-based family reconciliation services" means family
39 reconciliation services as defined in this chapter that are provided
40 by a community-based entity under contract with the department.

1 (8) "Crisis residential center" means a secure or semi-secure
2 facility established pursuant to chapter 74.13 RCW.

3 ~~((8))~~ (9) "Custodian" means the person or entity that has the
4 legal right to custody of the child.

5 ~~((9))~~ (10) "Department" means the department of children,
6 youth, and families.

7 ~~((10))~~ (11) "Extended family member" means an adult who is a
8 grandparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, uncle, aunt,
9 or first cousin with whom the child has a relationship and is
10 comfortable, and who is willing and available to care for the child.

11 ~~((11))~~ (12) "Family reconciliation services" means services
12 provided by culturally relevant, trauma-informed community-based
13 entities under contract with the department, or provided directly by
14 the department, designed to assess and stabilize the family with the
15 goal of resolving crisis and building supports, skills, and
16 connection to community networks and resources including, but not
17 limited to:

18 (a) Referrals for services for suicide prevention, psychiatric or
19 other medical care, psychological care, behavioral health treatment,
20 legal assistance, or educational assistance;

21 (b) Parent training;

22 (c) Assistance with conflict management or dispute resolution; or

23 (d) Other social services, as appropriate to meet the needs of
24 the child and the family.

25 ~~((12))~~ (13) "Guardian" means the person or agency that (a) has
26 been appointed as the guardian of a child in a legal proceeding other
27 than a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW, and (b) has the legal
28 right to custody of the child pursuant to such appointment. The term
29 "guardian" does not include a "dependency guardian" appointed
30 pursuant to a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW.

31 ~~((13))~~ (14) "Multidisciplinary team" means a group formed to
32 provide assistance and support to a child who is an at-risk youth or
33 a child in need of services and his or her parent. The team must
34 include the parent, a department caseworker, a local government
35 representative when authorized by the local government, and when
36 appropriate, members from the mental health and substance abuse
37 disciplines. The team may also include, but is not limited to, the
38 following persons: Educators, law enforcement personnel, probation
39 officers, employers, church persons, tribal members, therapists,
40 medical personnel, social service providers, placement providers, and

1 extended family members. The team members must be volunteers who do
2 not receive compensation while acting in a capacity as a team member,
3 unless the member's employer chooses to provide compensation or the
4 member is a state employee.

5 ~~((14))~~ (15) "Out-of-home placement" means a placement in a
6 foster family home or group care facility licensed pursuant to
7 chapter 74.15 RCW or placement in a home, other than that of the
8 child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian, not required to be
9 licensed pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW.

10 ~~((15))~~ (16) "Parent" means the parent or parents who have the
11 legal right to custody of the child. "Parent" includes custodian or
12 guardian.

13 ~~((16))~~ (17) "Responsible adult" means an adult the court orders
14 as a responsible adult to assist in making release plans with the
15 juvenile. The juvenile may recommend adults that they believe to be a
16 responsible adult for the court's consideration.

17 (18) "Secure facility" means a crisis residential center, or
18 portion thereof, that has locking doors, locking windows, or a
19 secured perimeter, designed and operated to prevent a child from
20 leaving without permission of the facility staff.

21 ~~((17))~~ (19) "Semi-secure facility" means any facility,
22 including but not limited to crisis residential centers or
23 specialized foster family homes, operated in a manner to reasonably
24 assure that youth placed there will not run away. Pursuant to rules
25 established by the department, the facility administrator shall
26 establish reasonable hours for residents to come and go from the
27 facility such that no residents are free to come and go at all hours
28 of the day and night. To prevent residents from taking unreasonable
29 actions, the facility administrator, where appropriate, may condition
30 a resident's leaving the facility upon the resident being accompanied
31 by the administrator or the administrator's designee and the resident
32 may be required to notify the administrator or the administrator's
33 designee of any intent to leave, his or her intended destination, and
34 the probable time of his or her return to the center.

35 ~~((18))~~ (20) "Sexually exploited child" means any person under
36 the age of ~~((eighteen))~~ 18 who is a victim of the crime of commercial
37 sex abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.100, promoting commercial sexual
38 abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.101, or promoting travel for
39 commercial sexual abuse of a minor under RCW 9.68A.102.

1 (~~(19)~~) (21) "Staff secure facility" means a structured group
2 care facility licensed under rules adopted by the department with a
3 ratio of at least one adult staff member to every two children.

4 (~~(20)~~) (22) "Temporary out-of-home placement" means an out-of-
5 home placement of not more than (~~fourteen~~) 14 days ordered by the
6 court at a fact-finding hearing on a child in need of services
7 petition.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 13.32A.045 and 2020 c 51 s 4 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) Beginning December 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, in
11 compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the department shall make data
12 available on the use of family reconciliation services which
13 includes:

14 (a) The number of requests for family reconciliation services;

15 (b) The number of referrals made for family reconciliation
16 services;

17 (c) The demographic profile of families and youth accessing
18 family reconciliation services including race, ethnicity, housing
19 status, child welfare history, existence of an individualized
20 education program, eligibility for services under 29 U.S.C. Sec. 701,
21 or eligibility for other disability-related services;

22 (d) The nature of the family conflict;

23 (e) The type and length of the family reconciliation services
24 delivered;

25 (f) Family outcomes after receiving family reconciliation
26 services; (~~and~~)

27 (g) Recommendations for improving family reconciliation services;

28 (h) The number of requests for community-based family
29 reconciliation services; and

30 (i) The number of referrals made through community-based family
31 reconciliation services.

32 (2) If the department cannot provide the information specified
33 under subsection (1) of this section, the department shall identify
34 steps necessary to obtain and make available the information required
35 under subsection (1) of this section.

36 **Sec. 3.** RCW 13.32A.150 and 2020 c 51 s 3 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

1 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the juvenile
2 court shall not accept the filing of a child in need of services
3 petition by the child or the parents or the filing of an at-risk
4 youth petition by the parent, unless verification is provided that
5 the department, or a community-based entity under contract with the
6 department, has completed a family assessment. The family assessment
7 shall involve the multidisciplinary team if one exists. The family
8 assessment or plan of services developed by the multidisciplinary
9 team shall be aimed at family reconciliation, reunification, and
10 avoidance of the out-of-home placement of the child. A family
11 assessment is not required for a child in need of services petition
12 filed pursuant to section 9 of this act.

13 (2) ((A)) Except as provided otherwise in this section, a child
14 or a child's parent may file with the juvenile court a child in need
15 of services petition to approve an out-of-home placement for the
16 child before completion of a family assessment. The department shall,
17 when requested, assist either a parent or child in the filing of the
18 petition. The petition must be filed in the county where the parent
19 resides, except for petitions filed pursuant to section 9 of this
20 act. The petition shall allege that the child is a child in need of
21 services and shall ask only that the placement of a child outside the
22 home of his or her parent be approved, except for petitions filed
23 pursuant to section 9 of this act. The filing of a petition to
24 approve the placement is not dependent upon the court's having
25 obtained any prior jurisdiction over the child or his or her parent,
26 and confers upon the court a special jurisdiction to approve or
27 disapprove an out-of-home placement under this chapter.

28 (3) A petition may not be filed if the child is the subject of a
29 proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW.

30 **Sec. 4.** RCW 13.32A.152 and 2011 c 309 s 21 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1) Whenever a child in need of services petition is filed by:
33 (a) A youth pursuant to RCW 13.32A.150 or section 9 of this act; (b)
34 the child or the child's parent pursuant to RCW 13.32A.120; or (c)
35 the department pursuant to RCW 13.32A.140, the filing party shall
36 have a copy of the petition served on the parents of the youth.
37 Service shall first be attempted in person and if unsuccessful, then
38 by certified mail with return receipt, except as provided otherwise.

1 (2) Whenever a child in need of services petition is filed by a
2 youth or parent pursuant to RCW 13.32A.150 or section 9 of this act,
3 the court shall immediately notify the department that a petition has
4 been filed.

5 (3) When a child in need of services petition is filed by the
6 department, and the court or the petitioning party knows or has
7 reason to know that an Indian child is involved, the provisions of
8 chapter 13.38 RCW apply.

9 (4) When a court schedules an emergency hearing under section 9
10 of this act, the court shall make diligent efforts to inform the
11 parent or legal guardian of the emergency hearing. The notice may be
12 given by any means reasonably certain of notifying the parent or
13 legal guardian including, but not limited to: Written, including in
14 an electronic format; telephone; or in-person oral notification.

15 **Sec. 5.** RCW 13.32A.160 and 2020 c 312 s 724 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) When a proper child in need of services petition to approve
18 an out-of-home placement is filed under RCW 13.32A.120, 13.32A.140,
19 ~~((or))~~ 13.32A.150, or section 9 of this act, the juvenile court
20 shall: (a)(i) Schedule a fact-finding hearing to be held: (A) For a
21 child who resides in a place other than his or her parent's home and
22 other than an out-of-home placement, within five calendar days unless
23 the last calendar day is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, in which
24 case the hearing shall be held on the preceding judicial day; or (B)
25 for a child living at home or in an out-of-home placement, within
26 ~~((ten))~~ 10 days; and (ii) notify the parent, child, and the
27 department of such date; (b) notify the parent of the right to be
28 represented by counsel and, if indigent, to have counsel appointed
29 for him or her by the court; (c) appoint legal counsel for the child;
30 (d) inform the child and his or her parent of the legal consequences
31 of the court approving or disapproving a child in need of services
32 petition; (e) notify the parents of their rights under this chapter
33 and chapters 11.130, 13.34, and 71.34 RCW, ~~((including))~~ and, except
34 for petitions filed pursuant to section 9 of this act, the right to
35 file an at-risk youth petition, the right to submit an application
36 for admission of their child to a treatment facility for alcohol,
37 chemical dependency, or mental health treatment, and the right to
38 file a guardianship petition; and (f) notify all parties, including

1 the department, of their right to present evidence at the fact-
2 finding hearing.

3 (2) Upon filing of a child in need of services petition, except
4 for a petition filed pursuant to section 9 of this act, the child may
5 be placed, if not already placed, by the department in a crisis
6 residential center, HOPE center, foster family home, group home
7 facility licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW, or any other suitable
8 residence to be determined by the department. The court may place a
9 child in a crisis residential center for a temporary out-of-home
10 placement as long as the requirements of RCW 13.32A.125 are met.

11 (3) If the child has been placed in a foster family home or group
12 care facility under chapter 74.15 RCW, the child shall remain there,
13 or in any other suitable residence as determined by the department,
14 pending resolution of the petition by the court. Any placement may be
15 reviewed by the court within three judicial days upon the request of
16 the juvenile or the juvenile's parent.

17 **Sec. 6.** RCW 13.32A.170 and 2000 c 123 s 20 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1) The court shall hold a fact-finding hearing to consider a
20 proper child in need of services petition, giving due weight to the
21 intent of the legislature that families have the right to place
22 reasonable restrictions and rules upon their children, appropriate to
23 the individual child's developmental level. The court may appoint
24 legal counsel and/or a guardian ad litem to represent the child and
25 advise parents of their right to be represented by legal counsel. At
26 the commencement of the hearing, the court shall advise the parents
27 of their rights as set forth in RCW 13.32A.160(1). If the court
28 approves or denies a child in need of services petition, a written
29 statement of the reasons must be filed.

30 (2) The court may approve an order stating that the child shall
31 be placed in a residence other than the home of his or her parent
32 only if it is established by a preponderance of the evidence,
33 including a departmental recommendation for approval or dismissal of
34 the petition, that:

35 (a) The child is a child in need of services as defined in RCW
36 13.32A.030(5);

37 (b) If the petitioner is a child, he or she has made a reasonable
38 effort to resolve the conflict. This subsection does not apply to a
39 petition filed pursuant to section 9 of this act;

1 (c) Reasonable efforts have been made to prevent or eliminate the
2 need for removal of the child from the child's home and to make it
3 possible for the child to return home; and

4 (d) A suitable out-of-home placement resource is available. This
5 subsection does not apply to a petition filed pursuant to section 9
6 of this act.

7 The court may not grant a petition filed by the child or the
8 department if it is established that the petition is based only upon
9 a dislike of reasonable rules or reasonable discipline established by
10 the parent.

11 The court may not grant the petition if the child is the subject
12 of a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW.

13 (3) Following the fact-finding hearing the court shall: (a)
14 Approve a child in need of services petition and, if appropriate,
15 enter a temporary out-of-home placement for a period not to exceed
16 (~~fourteen~~) 14 days pending approval of a disposition decision to be
17 made under RCW 13.32A.179(2); (b) approve an at-risk youth petition
18 filed by the parents and dismiss the child in need of services
19 petition, unless the petition was filed pursuant to section 9 of this
20 act; or (c) dismiss the petition.

21 At any time the court may order the department to review the case
22 to determine whether the case is appropriate for a dependency
23 petition under chapter 13.34 RCW.

24 **Sec. 7.** RCW 13.32A.179 and 2000 c 123 s 21 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (1) A disposition hearing shall be held no later than
27 (~~fourteen~~) 14 days after the approval of the temporary out-of-home
28 placement. The parents, child, and department shall be notified by
29 the court of the time and place of the hearing.

30 (2) At the conclusion of the disposition hearing, the court may:
31 (a) Reunite the family and dismiss the petition; (b) approve an at-
32 risk youth petition filed by the parents and dismiss the child in
33 need of services petition, unless the child in need of services
34 petition was filed pursuant to section 9 of this act; (c) approve an
35 out-of-home placement requested in the child in need of services
36 petition by the parents unless the child in need of services petition
37 was filed pursuant to section 9 of this act; or (d) order an out-of-
38 home placement at the request of the child or the department not to
39 exceed (~~ninety~~) 90 days.

1 At any time the court may order the department to review the
2 matter for purposes of filing a dependency petition under chapter
3 13.34 RCW. Whether or not the court approves or orders an out-of-home
4 placement, the court may also order any conditions of supervision as
5 set forth in RCW 13.32A.196(3).

6 (3) The court may only enter an order under subsection (2)(d) of
7 this section if it finds by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence
8 that: (a)(i) The order is in the best interest of the family; (ii)
9 the parents have not requested an out-of-home placement; (iii) the
10 parents have not exercised any other right listed in RCW
11 13.32A.160(1)(e); (iv) the child has made reasonable efforts to
12 resolve the problems that led to the filing of the petition; (v) the
13 problems cannot be resolved by delivery of services to the family
14 during continued placement of the child in the parental home; (vi)
15 reasonable efforts have been made to prevent or eliminate the need
16 for removal of the child from the child's home and to make it
17 possible for the child to return home; and (vii) a suitable out-of-
18 home placement resource is available; (b)(i) the order is in the best
19 interest of the child; and (ii) the parents are unavailable; or (c)
20 the parent's actions cause an imminent threat to the child's health
21 or safety. (a)(ii), (iii), and (iv) of this subsection (3) do not
22 apply to petitions filed pursuant to section 9 of this act.

23 (4) The court may order the department to submit a dispositional
24 plan if such a plan would assist the court in ordering a suitable
25 disposition in the case. The plan, if ordered, shall address the
26 needs of the child, and the perceived needs of the parents if the
27 order was entered under subsection (2)(d) of this section or if
28 specifically agreed to by the parents. If the parents do not agree or
29 the order was not entered under subsection (2)(d) of this section the
30 plan may only make recommendations regarding services in which the
31 parents may voluntarily participate. If the court orders the
32 department to prepare a plan, the department shall provide copies of
33 the plan to the parent, the child, and the court. If the parties or
34 the court desire the department to be involved in any future
35 proceedings or case plan development, the department shall be
36 provided with timely notification of all court hearings.

37 (5) A child who fails to comply with a court order issued under
38 this section shall be subject to contempt proceedings, as provided in
39 this chapter, but only if the noncompliance occurs within one year

1 after the entry of the order. This subsection does not apply to
2 petitions filed under section 9 of this act.

3 (6) (~~After~~) Except for petitions filed under section 9 of this
4 act, after the court approves or orders an out-of-home placement, the
5 parents or the department may request, and the court may grant,
6 dismissal of the child in need of services proceeding when it is not
7 feasible for the department to provide services due to one or more of
8 the following circumstances:

9 (a) The child has been absent from court approved placement for
10 (~~thirty~~) 30 consecutive days or more;

11 (b) The parents or the child, or all of them, refuse to cooperate
12 in available, appropriate intervention aimed at reunifying the
13 family; or

14 (c) The department has exhausted all available and appropriate
15 resources that would result in reunification.

16 (7) The court shall dismiss a placement made under subsection
17 (2)(c) of this section upon the request of the parents.

18 **Sec. 8.** RCW 43.330.724 and 2022 c 137 s 4 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (1) Subject to the amounts appropriated for this specific
21 purpose, the office of homeless youth prevention and protection
22 programs shall select, monitor, and provide funding and assistance
23 (~~for a minimum of six total~~) statewide to counties that implement
24 housing stability for youth in crisis programs as described in this
25 section (~~for a period of three years~~).

26 (2) The housing stability for youth in crisis (~~pilot~~) programs
27 must include the following components:

28 (a) Regular trainings provided to all appropriate juvenile court
29 staff regarding risk factors and identifiers for youth homelessness;

30 (b) An identification and referral system used throughout the
31 juvenile court system where all appropriate court staff use routine
32 data flags to identify youth at risk for youth homelessness and refer
33 youth to the housing stability coordinator described under (c) of
34 this subsection;

35 (c) A dedicated housing stability coordinator in each
36 participating county that receives referrals, conducts housing
37 stability assessments with youth and caregivers, connects youth and
38 caregivers with relevant community providers based on assessments,
39 and follows up on referrals;

1 (d) A model of homelessness prevention services that provides the
2 appropriate amount of intervention based on the youth or family
3 needs; and

4 (e) Coordinated housing services for youth experiencing
5 homelessness.

6 (3) By October 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, and in
7 compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the office of homeless youth
8 prevention and protection programs shall submit a report to the
9 relevant committees of the legislature and the governor that
10 includes:

11 (a) An evaluation of the housing stability for youth in crisis
12 programs that includes outcome data for participants;

13 (b) Recommendations for improving the housing stability for youth
14 in crisis programs; and

15 (c) ~~((Recommendation for expanding the housing stability for
16 youth in crisis programs.~~

17 ~~(4) This section expires July 1, 2026))~~ Any other relevant
18 information as determined by the office of homeless youth prevention
19 and protection programs.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 13.32A
21 RCW to read as follows:

22 (1) Prior to their release, a juvenile in detention or in the
23 physical custody of the juvenile court may file a child in need of
24 services petition with the juvenile court for the court to approve an
25 out-of-home placement and wrap-around services if the juvenile has
26 reason to believe there will be no parent, legal guardian, or
27 responsible adult to whom they can be released when legal
28 jurisdiction to detain ends.

29 (2) The petition is to be filed in the county where the child is
30 detained.

31 (3) If the juvenile may be released from detention or physical
32 custody of the court prior to the time of a scheduled fact-finding
33 hearing, the court shall schedule an emergency hearing to be held as
34 soon as possible and no later than the time that legal authority to
35 detain the juvenile ends. Hearsay shall be admissible at the
36 emergency hearing. If at the conclusion of the hearing the court
37 finds the juvenile successfully argues that their parents are not
38 able or willing to ensure their basic needs are met, the court shall
39 order the department to take custody of the juvenile pending the

1 outcome of a fact-finding hearing under RCW 13.32A.170. Diligent
2 efforts must be made to notify the parents or legal guardians of this
3 emergency hearing.

4 (4) Court staff may refer juveniles to the housing stability for
5 youth in crisis programs, as provided for in RCW 43.330.724, where
6 they exist and within existing resources to assist with housing
7 stability by collaborating with shelter providers, the department,
8 juvenile court staff, community partners, host homes, parents,
9 guardians, kin, and other identified supporters to prevent
10 homelessness and ensure the juvenile transitions to safe housing.
11 Out-of-home placement assistance may involve providing vouchers to
12 juveniles or their families/friends to address immediate needs and
13 stabilize housing including, but not limited to, transportation,
14 vehicle repairs, and acquiring essential furniture.

15 (5)(a) A juvenile in detention or in the physical custody of the
16 juvenile court shall be assigned counsel by the court or referred to
17 an available civil legal aid law firm to assist with preparing,
18 filing of court documents, and advising them of their legal rights
19 related to housing and other supports.

20 (b) Prior to the juvenile's release from detention or the
21 physical custody of the court, and while the child in need of
22 services fact-finding hearing is pending, the department is to: (i)
23 Offer services to help locate family, relatives, or kin, locally and
24 nationally, using the department's family search resources; and (ii)
25 offer and provide family reconciliation services to assist the
26 juvenile, family, or other responsible adult, as ordered by the
27 court, willing to support the juvenile to remedy issues that prevent
28 the juvenile from living with their family or other responsible
29 adults.

30 (6) A petition may not be filed if the juvenile is the subject of
31 a proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 13.32A
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 Subject to funding appropriated for this specific purpose, the
35 department shall:

36 (1) Offer contracts to provide community-based family
37 reconciliation services in three regions served by the department,
38 two regions on the west side of the mountains, and one region on the
39 east side of the mountains by January 1, 2026; and

1 (2) Offer contracts to provide community-based family
2 reconciliation services statewide by January 1, 2030.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** A new section is added to chapter 13.32A
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 The partnership council on juvenile justice shall consider and
6 provide recommendations regarding the family reconciliation, child in
7 need of services, at-risk youth, and truancy systems in order to
8 develop recommendations to modernize this chapter and align its
9 intentions, goals, and services with other, newer chapters, including
10 chapter 43.330 RCW. The partnership council on juvenile justice is
11 authorized to consult with experts to study and gather research on
12 best practices regarding supports and services for family
13 reconciliation, at-risk youth, children in need of services, and
14 truancy, and to consult with relevant stakeholders regarding its
15 potential recommendations. Relevant stakeholders may include, but are
16 not limited to, the superior court judges association; Washington
17 association of juvenile court administrators; office of homeless
18 youth prevention and protection programs; office of the
19 superintendent of public instruction; community-based organizations
20 with expertise in unaccompanied youth, truancy professionals, and
21 youth shelter providers; law enforcement; prosecutors; public
22 defenders; incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth and young
23 adults; youth and young adults who have experienced homelessness;
24 parents who have experienced raising at-risk youth; chemical
25 dependency treatment providers; adolescent behavioral health
26 professionals; and the administrative office of the courts.

27 By October 31, 2026, the partnership council on juvenile justice
28 shall report to the governor and appropriate committees of the
29 legislature recommendations for modernizing this chapter and other
30 necessary steps to develop a meaningful safety and support network to
31 address the needs of unaccompanied minors. Recommendations shall
32 consider restorative principles and best practices and shall be
33 developed in consultation with those who have been unaccompanied
34 minors; have experienced truancy, chemical dependency, or have been
35 children in need of services; and family members of youth who have
36 experienced truancy or at-risk behaviors. The partnership council on
37 juvenile justice shall provide recommendations for updating statutory
38 language, identifying gaps in the provision of services, recommending
39 pathways to address those gaps, recommending program implementation

1 including, but not limited to, structure and placement within state
2 government; scope and scale of funding including eligibility
3 criteria; court processes as needed; and coordination with the
4 existing adolescent services.

--- **END** ---