

---

**SENATE BILL 5620**

---

**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Cleveland, Frame, Hasegawa, Liiias, Nobles, and C. Wilson

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

1 AN ACT Relating to codifying the rights of children and youth in  
2 foster care; adding a new section to chapter 74.13 RCW; and creating  
3 a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that young people in  
6 foster care will benefit from having a statutory declaration and  
7 notification of certain rights. The statutory rights in this section  
8 are not intended to limit or supersede other rights afforded to  
9 children and youth in foster care. The legislature intends to improve  
10 the health, well-being, and safety of children and youth in foster  
11 care by declaring these rights.

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

14 (1) The department shall make efforts to ensure provision of the  
15 following rights:

16 (a) The right to dignity and respect regardless of actual or  
17 perceived race, ethnicity, culture, sex, sexual orientation, gender  
18 identity, and gender expression, and freedom from discrimination in  
19 accordance with applicable state and federal laws;

1 (b) Placement with a foster care provider, where necessary, who  
2 is aware of and understands the child's or youth's unique history as  
3 it relates to the child's or youth's care and who possesses the  
4 appropriate knowledge and skills to provide for the child's or  
5 youth's needs;

6 (c) Reasonable connections to the child's or youth's community  
7 and supports, including communication and contact with people outside  
8 the foster care system who are important to the child or youth,  
9 unless otherwise limited by law or court order;

10 (d) Receipt of a free and appropriate education, access to  
11 transportation to educational institutions, and an opportunity to  
12 participate in sports and extracurricular, cultural, personal  
13 enrichment, and social activities consistent with the child's or  
14 youth's age and developmental level, including access to computer  
15 technology and the internet as necessary for the child's or youth's  
16 education;

17 (e) Personal belongings including wearing the child's or youth's  
18 own clothing, having a safe place to store personal belongings, and  
19 having personal belongings transported in appropriate luggage with  
20 the child or youth during or shortly after a change of placement; and

21 (f) When 18 or older and leaving foster care, being provided with  
22 the youth's birth certificate, social security card, immigration  
23 documents, health insurance information, medical records, education  
24 records, either a driver's license or a state-issued identicard,  
25 written information including the youth's family history and contact  
26 information for siblings, if appropriate, and proof of foster care.

27 (2) By September 1, 2025, the department shall produce and make  
28 available to department staff a pamphlet containing the rights  
29 afforded to youth in foster care and the responsibilities of the  
30 department. At a minimum, the pamphlet must:

31 (a) Be concise, but provide references to resources and services  
32 available to children and youth in care;

33 (b) At a minimum, describe the rights as articulated under this  
34 chapter as well as any other relevant information; and

35 (c) Provide information on how to contact caseworkers in an  
36 emergency.

1           (3) The pamphlet required under this section must be made  
2 available by the department to all foster youth as they enter care  
3 and shall also be published on the department's website.

--- **END** ---