
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1608

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By House Committee on Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Leonard, Winsley, Rasmussen, Beck, Anderson, Hargrove, Brekke, Bowman, Dorn, Hine, Rust, Riley, Spanel, H. Myers, Dellwo, Phillips, Haugen, Jacobsen, Jones, R. King, Pruitt, Basich, R. Johnson, Van Luven, Holland, Valle, Paris, Belcher, Sheldon and O'Brien).

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1 AN ACT Relating to children's services; amending RCW 74.13.032 and
2 74.13.035; adding a new section to chapter 13.40 RCW; adding a new
3 section to chapter 74.13 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The department of social and health
6 services may conduct an assessment of the children in its care to
7 determine the appropriate level of residential and treatment services
8 required by these children. Any such assessment shall be based on a
9 statistically valid sample of all children in the department's care.
10 The department shall report the results of the assessment to the
11 appropriate standing committees of the legislature by September 15,
12 1992. The department shall submit recommendations to the appropriate
13 standing committees of the legislature on reallocating funds for
14 children's services by December 1, 1992.

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

3 The department of social and health services may implement a
4 therapeutic family home program for up to fifteen youth in the custody
5 of the department under chapter 13.34 RCW. The program shall strive to
6 develop and maintain a mutually reinforcing relationship between the
7 youth and the therapeutic staff associated with the program.

8 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.13.032 and 1979 c 155 s 78 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 (1) The department shall establish, by contracts with private
11 vendors, not less than eight regional crisis residential centers, which
12 shall be structured group care facilities licensed under rules adopted
13 by the department. (~~Each regional center shall have an average of at
14 least four adult staff members and in no event less than three adult
15 staff members to every eight children.~~) The staff shall be trained so
16 that they may effectively counsel juveniles admitted to the centers,
17 provide treatment, supervision, and structure to the juveniles, and
18 carry out the responsibilities outlined in RCW 13.32A.090.

19 (2) The department shall, in addition to the regional facilities
20 established under subsection (1) of this section, establish not less
21 than thirty additional crisis residential centers pursuant to contract
22 with licensed private group care or specialized foster home facilities.
23 The staff at the facilities shall be trained so that they may
24 effectively counsel juveniles admitted to the centers, provide
25 treatment, supervision, and structure to the juveniles, and carry out
26 the responsibilities stated in RCW 13.32A.090. The responsibilities
27 stated in RCW 13.32A.090 may, in any of the centers, be carried out by
28 the department.

1 Crisis residential facilities shall be operated as semi-secure
2 facilities.

3 **Sec. 4.** RCW 74.13.035 and 1979 c 155 s 81 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 Crisis residential centers shall compile yearly records which shall
6 be transmitted to the department and which shall contain information
7 regarding population profiles of the children admitted to the centers
8 during each past calendar year. Such information shall include but
9 shall not be limited to the following:

- 10 (1) The number, age, and sex of children admitted to custody;
- 11 (2) Who brought the children to the center;
- 12 (3) Services provided to children admitted to the center;
- 13 (4) The circumstances which necessitated the children being brought
14 to the center;
- 15 (5) The ultimate disposition of cases;
- 16 (6) The number of children admitted to custody who ran away from
17 the center and their ultimate disposition, if any;
- 18 (7) Length of stay.

19 The department may require the provision of additional information and
20 may require each center to provide all such necessary information in a
21 uniform manner.

22 ~~((A center may, in addition to being licensed as such, also be
23 licensed as a family foster home or group care facility and may house
24 on the premises juveniles assigned for foster or group care.))~~

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The legislature finds that a destructive
26 lifestyle of drug and street gang activity is rapidly becoming
27 prevalent among some of the state's youths. A significant portion of
28 these gang and drug-involved youths are African American youths as well

1 as the youths of other ethnic and cultural minority groups. Gang and
2 drug-involved youths are more likely to become addicted to drugs or
3 alcohol, live in poverty, experience high unemployment, be
4 incarcerated, and die of violence than other youths.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 13.40 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The department of social and health services may contract with
8 a community-based nonprofit organization to establish a three-step
9 transitional treatment program for gang and drug-involved juvenile
10 offenders committed to the custody of the department under chapter
11 13.40 RCW. Any such program shall provide six to twenty-four months of
12 treatment. The program shall emphasize the principles of self-
13 determination, unity, collective work and responsibility, cooperative
14 economics, and creativity. The program shall be culturally relevant
15 and appropriate and shall include:

16 (a) A culturally relevant and appropriate institution-based program
17 that provides comprehensive drug and alcohol services, individual and
18 family counseling, and a wilderness experience of constructive group
19 living, rigorous physical exercise, and academic studies;

20 (b) A culturally relevant and appropriate community-based
21 structured group living program that focuses on individual goals,
22 positive community involvement, coordinated drug and alcohol treatment,
23 coordinated individual and family counseling, academic and vocational
24 training, and employment in apprenticeship, internship, and
25 entrepreneurial programs; and

26 (c) A culturally relevant and appropriate transitional group living
27 program that provides support services, academic services, and
28 coordinated individual and family counseling.

1 (2) Participation in any such program shall be on a voluntary
2 basis.

3 (3) The department shall adopt rules as necessary to implement any
4 such program.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The department of social and
6 health services may contract with an independent research organization
7 to conduct an evaluation of any program that is established under
8 section 6 of this act. The evaluation shall include an analysis of the
9 race and ethnicity of juvenile offenders served, the offenses for which
10 the youths were committed, the services provided, the effects of the
11 program on educational and vocational achievement, and the rate of
12 recidivism for these youth.

13 (2) Any organization selected shall provide a preliminary report on
14 the program to appropriate standing committees of the senate and house
15 of representatives by September 15, 1992. Any final report shall be
16 submitted to appropriate standing committees of the senate and house of
17 representatives by January 15, 1993.