
HOUSE BILL 1614

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives H. Myers, Hargrove, Beck, Peery, Anderson, Riley, Leonard, Winsley, Brekke, Miller, Cooper, Grant, Cole, G. Fisher, Belcher, Ogden, Nelson, Phillips, Franklin, Pruitt, Morris, Wineberry, Prentice, Inslee, Rust, Ludwig, Heavey, Fraser, Jacobsen, Bray, Dellwo, Jones, R. King, Basich, R. Johnson, Holland, Kremen, Scott, Rasmussen and O'Brien.

Read first time February 4, 1991. Referred to Committee on Human Services\Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to child care services for homeless families
2 including families that are homeless due to domestic violence; adding
3 new sections to chapter 74.15 RCW; creating a new section; making an
4 appropriation; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that specialized
7 child care services and early childhood education services are needed
8 to meet the needs of homeless children younger than school age to
9 improve their physical, social, medical, and emotional state. These
10 services will prevent later educational and social failures and
11 resulting societal costs. Continuity in child care arrangements is
12 vital for children who are experiencing constant disruption in their
13 living arrangements.

14 The legislature further finds that homeless parents, in order to
15 achieve independence, need an appropriate place to provide care for

1 their children while they seek or maintain employment, attend
2 treatment, or seek permanent housing.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.15 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 For the purposes of section 3 of this act:

6 (1) "Homeless" means:

7 (a) An individual or family that lacks a fixed, regular, and
8 adequate nighttime residence; or

9 (b) An individual or family that has primary nighttime residence
10 that is:

11 (i) A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to
12 provide temporary living accommodations, including, but not limited to,
13 welfare hotels, domestic violence shelters, congregate shelters, and
14 transitional housing for the mentally ill;

15 (ii) An institution that provides a temporary residence for
16 individuals intended to be institutionalized; or

17 (iii) A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily
18 used as, regular sleeping accommodations for human beings.

19 "Homeless" does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise
20 detained pursuant to an act of the congress or a state law.

21 (2) "Domestic violence" has the same definition as in RCW 10.99.020
22 or 26.50.010.

23 (3) "Specialized child care" means all-day care that is
24 developmentally appropriate child care for homeless children provided
25 by specialized child care centers or by purchase of existing slots in
26 community child care centers or family day care homes. Such care may
27 include low staff-to-child ratios, counseling, parent support services,
28 health care, transportation, specially trained staff, and appropriate
29 curricula.

1 (4) "Respite child care" means drop-in, custodial child care for
2 children where specialized child care is not practical, such as in
3 communities with small shelter populations or for families housed in
4 hotels or motels under "voucher" programs as provided in chapter 74.50
5 RCW.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.15 RCW
7 to read as follow:

8 (1) The department shall, within the funds appropriated for this
9 purpose, contract with eligible providers for specialized child care
10 and respite care for children of homeless parents. The total
11 allocation to providers within a county shall be:

12 (a) No less than twenty-five thousand dollars per fiscal year in
13 any county that had at least one hundred children under the age of five
14 served in emergency shelters the preceding year as reported by the
15 department of community development; or

16 (b) No more than ten thousand dollars per fiscal year in any county
17 that had less than one hundred children under the age of five served in
18 emergency shelters the preceding year as reported by the department of
19 community development.

20 Providers shall demonstrate that licensed child care facilities are
21 available to provide specialized child care for children under the age
22 of six. Respite child care providers shall demonstrate that respite
23 child care is available for children under the age of six. Child care
24 services provided by shelters are subject to department of community
25 development rules on applicant eligibility criteria.

26 (2) Providers of respite child care shall submit to background
27 checks provided for in chapter 43.43 RCW.

1 (3) Local funds used for child care services for the homeless that
2 are supplemented by funds provided under this section shall continue to
3 be used for services for homeless children.

4 (4) The department shall require child care and respite care
5 providers under this section to coordinate with early childhood
6 education programs funded through the department of community
7 development.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of two million six hundred
9 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
10 appropriated from the general fund to the department of social and
11 health services for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, to carry out the
12 purposes of this act.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
15 state government and its existing public institutions, and this act
16 shall take effect July 1, 1991.