
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5872

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Stevens, Carrell, Mulliken, Deccio, Finkbeiner, Delvin, Benson, Johnson, Oke, Hewitt and Schmidt)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the joint task force on the
2 administration and delivery of services to children and families;
3 creating new sections; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A task force on the administrative
6 organization, structure, and delivery of services to children and
7 families is created to determine the most appropriate and effective
8 administrative structure for delivery of social and health services to
9 children and families, including juvenile rehabilitation services. The
10 task force shall study how best to ensure that an administration has
11 defined lines of responsibility for delivering services to families and
12 children in need and the best means for the public to hold government
13 accountable for delivery of those services. The task force shall
14 compare the effectiveness of including children and families services
15 delivery within an umbrella agency, such as the current department of
16 social and health services, with establishing a separate department for
17 children and family services whose director reports directly to the
18 governor and is not under the administration of an umbrella agency.

1 The task force shall, as part of the comparison, examine the
2 administrative structures used in other states for the delivery of
3 services to children and families.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The task force created in section 1 of
5 this act shall consist of the following members appointed by the
6 governor:

7 (a) The dean of the school of social work at the University of
8 Washington or an academic professor from a list recommended by the
9 dean;

10 (b) Two members of the senate, from names recommended by the chair
11 of the senate committee on human services and corrections, which must
12 include one member from the minority party;

13 (c) Two members of the house of representatives, from names
14 recommended by the chair of the committee on children and family
15 services, which must include one member from the minority party;

16 (d) An academic professor with expertise in the management of
17 public agencies, from a list of names recommended by the dean of the
18 University of Washington's Daniel J. Evans graduate school of public
19 administration;

20 (e) A juvenile court administrator, from a list of names
21 recommended by the juvenile court administrators' association;

22 (f) A family superior court judge, from a list of names recommended
23 by the superior court judges' association;

24 (g) A law enforcement officer with experience in working with child
25 protective services investigations, from a list of names recommended by
26 the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs;

27 (h) The director of the office of public defense;

28 (i) The director of the office of the family and children's
29 ombudsman;

30 (j) A line worker from the department of social and health
31 services, juvenile rehabilitation administration's community
32 supervision and placement services, from a list of names recommended by
33 the federation of state employees;

34 (k) A line social worker from the department of social and health
35 services with a master's degree in social work and fifteen years'
36 experience in the public or private sector investigating child abuse or

1 neglect and referring families and children to alcohol and substance
2 abuse services, from a list of names recommended by the federation of
3 state employees;

4 (l) A private vendor of mental health services to families of
5 children and children in both in-home and out-of-home placements as a
6 result of abuse or neglect or for juvenile rehabilitation, from a list
7 of names recommended by the Washington state coalition of children's
8 residential services;

9 (m) The director of the department of social and health services,
10 children's administration, office of legislative affairs; and

11 (n) A representative of the governor's office.

12 (2) The dean of the school of social work at the University of
13 Washington or the academic professor appointed by the governor shall be
14 the chair of the task force.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The task force shall study and report
16 findings and recommendations on which administrative and service
17 delivery structures will best accomplish positive outcomes for children
18 and families and efficiencies in administration, including but not
19 limited to:

20 (a) Reducing the number of children at risk for abuse or neglect
21 and increasing the safety and well-being of children;

22 (b) Increasing the ability of families to care for their own
23 children and reducing the number of children in foster care;

24 (c) Increasing placement stability and permanency for children in
25 out-of-home care and reducing unsafe and inappropriate placements;

26 (d) Delivering appropriate and timely mental health services;

27 (e) Providing adequate and appropriate staff training and
28 education;

29 (f) Promoting foster parent recruitment, training, and retention;

30 (g) Reducing the frequency and duration of sibling separation;

31 (h) Delivering adequate and timely services to adolescents;

32 (i) Increasing responsibility and accountability for achieving
33 goals; and

34 (j) Improving any other measurable outcomes for children and
35 families.

36 (2) The task force shall study and report findings and

1 recommendations on the costs, benefits, savings, or reductions in
2 services of the various administrative and service delivery structures
3 described in section 1 of this act.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The first meeting of the task force shall be
5 no later than May 1, 2005, with subsequent meetings as needed. The
6 task force may consult with others as is needed.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The final report of the findings and
8 recommendations shall be provided to appropriate committees of the
9 legislature by December 1, 2005.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
11 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
12 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
13 immediately.

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