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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2520**

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**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2008 Regular Session**

**By** House Early Learning & Children's Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Schual-Berke, Hudgins, Pedersen, Dickerson, Hasegawa, Walsh, Campbell, VanDeWege, Lias, Barlow, Green, and Kelley)

READ FIRST TIME 01/29/08.

1       AN ACT Relating to creating a domestic violence pilot program to  
2       colocate a domestic violence advocate in a department of social and  
3       health services office; adding a new section to chapter 74.13 RCW; and  
4       providing an expiration date.

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

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

8       (1) By January 2009, the department of social and health services  
9       shall create a pilot program to place a full-time domestic violence  
10       advocate in a minimum of one office of the division of children and  
11       family services.

12       (2) The purpose of the program is to provide domestic violence  
13       safety planning, advocacy, information, and support to adult victims of  
14       domestic violence who are receiving services from the division of  
15       children and family services offices, and to increase the capacity of  
16       division of children and family services workers to identify and  
17       respond effectively to domestic violence in their caseloads.

18       (3) The goals of the program are to:

1 (a) Increase the safety of children and adult victims of domestic  
2 violence who are involved with the department's child protective  
3 services division;

4 (b) Increase the adult domestic violence victim's understanding of  
5 available domestic violence resources and supports;

6 (c) Increase the adult domestic violence victim's and the domestic  
7 violence perpetrator's understanding of the effects of domestic  
8 violence on children;

9 (d) Provide consultation and training to child protective services  
10 social workers so that they may increase their knowledge of domestic  
11 violence and practice skills for addressing domestic violence in their  
12 caseloads, and provide safe, effective responses for children and their  
13 families experiencing domestic violence;

14 (e) Decrease the rate at which victims of domestic violence are  
15 referred back to the division of children and family services;

16 (f) Decrease the number of children of domestic violence victims  
17 that are placed in protective custody;

18 (g) Strengthen collaborations between department staff and  
19 community providers and resources; and

20 (h) Conduct an evaluation of the program by comparing the outcomes  
21 of the program office to the outcomes of a comparison office that does  
22 not have the domestic violence advocate, and to develop a report of the  
23 findings and recommendations that may be used to replicate the program  
24 statewide.

25 (4) The division of children and family services offices selected  
26 for the pilot program will convene a quarterly meeting of interested  
27 stakeholders to provide suggestions and technical assistance regarding  
28 implementation of the pilot program. Stakeholders may include, but are  
29 not limited to, a local domestic violence agency, public health,  
30 domestic violence perpetrator's treatment program, protection order  
31 programs, law enforcement, and others who are appropriate for the  
32 advisory group.

33 (5) The department shall utilize a request for proposal process and  
34 shall select the pilot site by September 2008. The request for  
35 proposal shall require:

36 (a) The community-based domestic violence agency to have experience  
37 providing domestic violence shelter or advocacy services under chapter

1 70.123 RCW, and experience working with families involved with child  
2 protective services or child welfare services.

3 (b) The agency must be willing to commit to the following:

4 (i) Involvement in the program for the duration of the program;

5 (ii) Providing the employee who will be the domestic violence  
6 victim advocate located at the department office;

7 (iii) Agree to supervise and support the advocate placed into the  
8 department office;

9 (iv) Collaborate with the division of children and family services  
10 program supervisor at the program site; and

11 (v) Participate in the evaluation of the pilot program.

12 (c) The domestic violence advocate shall provide the following  
13 services while colocated at the department office:

14 (i) Provide on-site education, consultation, and support to  
15 division of children and family services staff to meet the needs of the  
16 children and families involved in domestic violence situations on  
17 subjects including, but not limited to:

18 (A) Identifying indicators of domestic violence;

19 (B) Interviewing techniques that do not increase the risk of danger  
20 to the adult victim of domestic violence or the child;

21 (C) Identifying protective behaviors that may reduce the risk of  
22 harm to the adult victim or the child;

23 (D) Determining risks posed by an alleged domestic violence  
24 perpetrator to the adult victim or the child; and

25 (E) How to refer victims to a domestic violence advocate;

26 (ii) Provide advocacy services to facilitate linkage to appropriate  
27 community supports for families receiving services from division of  
28 children and family services offices;

29 (iii) Participating in child protective services unit meetings,  
30 case reviews, or child protection team meetings, for families with  
31 identified domestic violence concerns; and

32 (iv)(A) Provide general information to department workers regarding  
33 domestic violence issues such as battering tactics, resources, and  
34 safety planning development. It is not the role of the advocate to  
35 provide information or training to department workers on specialized  
36 areas of child welfare practice such as risk assessments.

37 (B) Further, the domestic violence advocate shall not provide case  
38 consultation services to any family to whom they are providing direct

1 advocacy. The domestic violence advocate may not provide direct  
2 advocacy services to any family on whose case they have provided  
3 consultation.

4 (6)(a) The department shall select a pilot program site where one  
5 or more supervisors have:

6 (i) Received formal training and experience working with families  
7 affected by domestic violence and child maltreatment; and

8 (ii) Participated in best practices work groups for domestic  
9 violence issues; or

10 (iii) Have served on one or more work groups to develop protocols  
11 or guidelines for coordinated responses by criminal justice and  
12 community-based nonprofit agencies to cases involving child  
13 maltreatment and domestic violence.

14 (b) The supervisor's duties include the following:

15 (i) Ensuring that the domestic violence advocate has the support  
16 necessary to implement advocate-specific portions of the program;

17 (ii) Ensuring that children and family services social workers  
18 receive ongoing training regarding domestic violence;

19 (iii) Convening case staffings which include the domestic violence  
20 advocate; and

21 (iv) Providing consultation to the case workers regarding  
22 appropriate interventions for the adult victim, the child, and the  
23 alleged domestic violence perpetrator.

24 (7) Provision of services by a domestic violence advocate under  
25 this section does not waive or diminish the confidential or privileged  
26 nature of communications between a victim of domestic violence and  
27 advocate pursuant to RCW 5.60.060, 70.123.075, or 70.123.076.

28 (8) The Washington state institute for public policy shall evaluate  
29 the pilot program to determine the outcomes of the program.

30 (a) Beginning in October 2008, the institute shall conduct a  
31 preprogram assessment. The preprogram assessment shall include a  
32 comparison of the program site to a division of children and family  
33 services office that does not contain a domestic violence advocate  
34 colocated at the site.

35 (b) Following the preprogram assessment, the institute shall  
36 conduct an evaluation of the pilot program, which includes a comparison  
37 of the program and nonprogram sites to determine the following  
38 outcomes:

1 (i) Changes to the rate of being referred back to child protective  
2 services intake for domestic violence related concerns; and

3 (ii) Changes to the rate of children of adult domestic violence  
4 victims placed into protective custody in the program office compared  
5 to the comparison site at the end of the three-year pilot program  
6 period.

7 (c) The evaluation shall include recommendations to the department  
8 for improving domestic violence responses in other division of children  
9 and family services community offices of Washington state.

10 (d) The institute shall report the findings of the program to the  
11 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2011.

12 (9) This section expires January 1, 2012.

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