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SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2106

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By House Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Representatives Kagi, Roberts, Kenney, and Morrell)

READ FIRST TIME 03/03/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving child welfare outcomes through the  
2 phased implementation of strategic and proven reforms; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 74.13 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that extensive  
6 research conducted by the Washington state institute for public policy  
7 demonstrates the potential for appreciable savings in the state's child  
8 welfare budget by deploying a core set of evidence-based and promising  
9 programs designed to strengthen families and prevent children from  
10 entering the foster care system and reducing the length of stay for  
11 children who do enter the system. The legislature further finds that  
12 achieving improved outcomes for child safety and long-term family  
13 strength and well-being requires renewed thinking and a greater  
14 emphasis on evidence-based and promising prevention and intervention  
15 services, earlier positive engagement with parents and children, more  
16 timely permanency outcomes, and more effective partnerships with  
17 communities and private partners. The legislature also finds that the  
18 goal of achieving lasting change in the state's child welfare system  
19 requires building and sustaining the serving capacity of evidence-based

1 and promising programs through the reinvestment of savings from reduced  
2 foster care caseloads. The legislature further finds that  
3 implementation of these reforms should be approached through  
4 collaborative analysis and planning that includes the relevant state  
5 agencies, community partners, and other stakeholders. The legislature  
6 intends to direct the development of a plan for the first phase of  
7 implementation to begin January 1, 2010.

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

10 (1) The children's administration within the department of social  
11 and health services shall collaborate with community partners and  
12 stakeholders in two demonstration regions to jointly develop a plan for  
13 implementation of a core set of performance-based contracts to provide  
14 an array of evidence-based and promising prevention and intervention  
15 services for families who are at risk for an out-of-home placement or  
16 have a child in out-of-home care, and for children who are awaiting  
17 adoption. The implementation plan must describe: (a) What services  
18 should be delivered under the contracts in order to assure providers  
19 have the flexibility to provide adequate, appropriate, and relevant  
20 evidence-based and promising services to individual families; (b) what  
21 outcome measures will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of  
22 performance under the contracts; (c) how families will be referred to  
23 contracted providers, including the protocols for continued  
24 communication or coordination between providers and the children's  
25 administration in order to assure child safety and well-being and to  
26 promote the family's engagement; and (d) the optimum balance of shared  
27 responsibility for child protection and child welfare between the state  
28 and community-based providers, including a description of the core  
29 functions to be performed by each. In selecting the demonstration  
30 regions, the children's administration shall consider the capacity for  
31 regionwide delivery of an array of evidence-based and promising  
32 prevention and early intervention services to children and families,  
33 paying particular attention to the research developed by the Washington  
34 state institute for public policy; the willingness and ability of the  
35 community and stakeholders to collaborate in development of a plan by  
36 the reporting date; and whether the region includes any existing  
37 multidisciplinary or multisystem work groups engaged in performance

1 improvement or reform efforts. The children's administration shall  
2 report to the governor and the appropriate committees of the  
3 legislature by November 30, 2009, with a plan to begin implementation  
4 January 1, 2010. Not later than December 1, 2010, the children's  
5 administration shall provide the governor and the legislature with a  
6 status update and recommendations for continued progress.

7 (2) The department of social and health services, the office of  
8 financial management, and the caseload forecast council shall develop  
9 a proposal for submission to the legislature for the reinvestment of  
10 savings from reduced foster care caseloads in the demonstration regions  
11 into evidence-based prevention and intervention programs designed to  
12 prevent the need for or reduce the duration of foster care placements  
13 in the demonstration regions. The proposal shall be submitted to the  
14 legislature and the governor by November 30, 2009, and shall include  
15 sufficient detail regarding accounting, budgeting, and allocation or  
16 other procedures for legislative consideration and approval.

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