H-2091.2

HOUSE BILL 1945

State of Washington   **67th Legislature**   **2022 Regular Session**

By Representatives Dent, Sutherland, Wicks, and Robertson

Read first time 01/12/22. Referred to Committee on Children, Youth & Families.

1   AN ACT Relating to improving communication between the department
2 of children, youth, and families and caregivers; adding a new section
3 to chapter 74.13 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an
4 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
7 RCW to read as follows:
8   The department shall develop and implement a caregiver liaison
9 program within the department for the purpose of improving
10 communication between the department and caregivers. The caregiver
11 liaison program is responsible for:
12   (1) Assisting caseworkers in promptly communicating with
13 caregivers of children receiving child welfare services;
14   (2) Developing policies for sharing appropriate and timely
15 information with caregivers of children receiving child welfare
16 services; and
17   (3) Directly communicating with caregivers of children receiving
18 child welfare services when an individual caseworker is unable to
19 promptly communicate due to other work demands.

1   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By October 1, 2022, and in compliance
2   with RCW 43.01.036, the department shall submit a report to the
3   appropriate committees of the legislature and the governor
4   describing:
5   (a) How the department could implement an automated notification
6   system that would provide electronic or telephonic notifications to
7   caregivers of children receiving child welfare services regarding
8   upcoming changes in placements for the child, court hearings, or
9   other relevant and appropriate information; and
10   (b) Any statutory, policy, or funding changes needed to
11   accomplish the automated notification system described in (a) of this
12   subsection.
13   (2) This section expires April 1, 2023.

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