

2 **ESB 6555 - H COMM AMD ADOPTED 2-29-00**

3 By Committee on Children & Family Services

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5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "Sec. 1. RCW 74.14A.050 and 1998 c 245 s 149 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 The secretary shall:

10 (1)(a) Consult with relevant qualified professionals to develop a
11 set of minimum guidelines to be used for identifying all children who
12 are in a state-assisted support system, whether at-home or out-of-home,
13 who are likely to need long-term care or assistance, because they face
14 physical, emotional, medical, mental, or other long-term challenges;

15 (b) The guidelines must, at a minimum, consider the following
16 criteria for identifying children in need of long-term care or
17 assistance:

18 (i) Placement within the foster care system for two years or more;

19 (ii) Multiple foster care placements;

20 (iii) Repeated unsuccessful efforts to be placed with a permanent
21 adoptive family;

22 (iv) Chronic behavioral or educational problems;

23 (v) Repetitive criminal acts or offenses;

24 (vi) Failure to comply with court-ordered disciplinary actions and
25 other imposed guidelines of behavior, including drug and alcohol
26 rehabilitation; and

27 (vii) Chronic physical, emotional, medical, mental, or other
28 similar conditions necessitating long-term care or assistance;

29 (2) Develop programs that are necessary for the long-term care of
30 children and youth that are identified for the purposes of this
31 section. Programs must: (a) Effectively address the educational,
32 physical, emotional, mental, and medical needs of children and youth;
33 and (b) incorporate an array of family support options, to individual
34 needs and choices of the child and family. The programs must be ready
35 for implementation by January 1, 1995;

1 (3) Conduct an evaluation of all children currently within the
2 foster care agency caseload to identify those children who meet the
3 criteria set forth in this section. The evaluation shall be completed
4 by January 1, 1994. All children entering the foster care system after
5 January 1, 1994, must be evaluated for identification of long-term
6 needs within ~~((thirty))~~ sixty days of placement;

7 (4) By region, report to the legislature on the following using
8 aggregate data every six months beginning December 31, 2000:

9 (a) The number of children evaluated during the first sixty days of
10 placement as required in subsection (3) of this section;

11 (b) The tool or tools used to evaluate children, including the
12 content of the tool and the method by which the tool was validated;

13 (c) The findings from the evaluation regarding the children's
14 needs;

15 (d) How the department used the results of the evaluation to
16 provide services to the foster child to meet his or her needs;

17 (e) Whether and how the evaluation results assisted the department
18 in providing appropriate services to the child, matching the child with
19 an appropriate care provider early on in the child's placement and
20 achieving the child's permanency plan in a timely fashion; and

21 (f) The provisions of this subsection are not retroactive. The
22 data reporting applies to placements made on and after the effective
23 date of this act.

24 (5) Each region of the department shall make the appropriate number
25 of referrals to the foster care assessment program to ensure that the
26 services offered by the program are used to the extent funded pursuant
27 to the department's contract with the program. The department shall
28 report to the legislature by November 30, 2000, on the number of
29 referrals, by region, to the foster care assessment program. If the
30 regions are not referring an adequate number of cases to the program,
31 the department shall include in its report an explanation of what
32 action it is or has taken to ensure that the referrals are adequate.

33 (6) The department shall report to the legislature by December 15,
34 2000, on how it will use the foster care assessment program model to
35 assess children as they enter out-of-home care.

36 (7) The department is to accomplish the tasks listed in subsections
37 (4) through (6) of this section within existing resources.

38 (8) Study and develop a comprehensive plan for the evaluation and
39 identification of all children and youth in need of long-term care or

1 assistance, including, but not limited to, the mentally ill,
2 developmentally disabled, medically fragile, seriously emotionally or
3 behaviorally disabled, and physically impaired;

4 (~~(5)~~) (9) Study and develop a plan for the children and youth in
5 need of long-term care or assistance to ensure the coordination of
6 services between the department's divisions and between other state
7 agencies who are involved with the child or youth;

8 (~~(6)~~) (10) Study and develop guidelines for transitional
9 services, between long-term care programs, based on the person's age or
10 mental, physical, emotional, or medical condition; and

11 (~~(7)~~) (11) Study and develop a statutory proposal for the
12 emancipation of minors."

13 Correct the title.

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