

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6555

56th Legislature
2000 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate February 15, 2000
YEAS 47 NAYS 0

President of the Senate

Passed by the House March 8, 2000
YEAS 98 NAYS 0

**Speaker of the
House of Representatives**

**Speaker of the
House of Representatives**

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Tony M. Cook, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6555** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

Secretary

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 6555

Passed Legislature - 2000 Regular Session

State of Washington 56th Legislature 2000 Regular Session

By Senators Long, Hargrove, Patterson, Costa, Eide, Winsley and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/19/2000. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to the evaluations of foster children for long-term
2 needs; and amending RCW 74.14A.050.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.14A.050 and 1998 c 245 s 149 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 The secretary shall:

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

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

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

16 (ii) Multiple foster care placements;

17 (iii) Repeated unsuccessful efforts to be placed with a permanent
18 adoptive family;

19 (iv) Chronic behavioral or educational problems;

1 (v) Repetitive criminal acts or offenses;

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

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

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

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

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

22 (a) The number of children evaluated during the first thirty days
23 of placement as required in subsection (3) of this section;

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

26 (c) The findings from the evaluation regarding the children's
27 needs;

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

30 (e) Whether and how the evaluation results assisted the department
31 in providing appropriate services to the child, matching the child with
32 an appropriate care provider early on in the child's placement and
33 achieving the child's permanency plan in a timely fashion.

34 (5) Each region of the department shall make the appropriate number
35 of referrals to the foster care assessment program to ensure that the
36 services offered by the program are used to the extent funded pursuant
37 to the department's contract with the program. The department shall
38 report to the legislature by November 30, 2000, on the number of
39 referrals, by region, to the foster care assessment program. If the

1 regions are not referring an adequate number of cases to the program,
2 the department shall include in its report an explanation of what
3 action it is or has taken to ensure that the referrals are adequate.

4 (6) The department shall report to the legislature by December 15,
5 2000, on how it will use the foster care assessment program model to
6 assess children as they enter out-of-home care.

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

9 (8) Study and develop a comprehensive plan for the evaluation and
10 identification of all children and youth in need of long-term care or
11 assistance, including, but not limited to, the mentally ill,
12 developmentally disabled, medically fragile, seriously emotionally or
13 behaviorally disabled, and physically impaired;

14 ~~((+5))~~ (9) Study and develop a plan for the children and youth in
15 need of long-term care or assistance to ensure the coordination of
16 services between the department's divisions and between other state
17 agencies who are involved with the child or youth;

18 ~~((+6))~~ (10) Study and develop guidelines for transitional
19 services, between long-term care programs, based on the person's age or
20 mental, physical, emotional, or medical condition; and

21 ~~((+7))~~ (11) Study and develop a statutory proposal for the
22 emancipation of minors.

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