

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1058**

Chapter 112, Laws of 2003

58th Legislature  
2003 Regular Session

FOSTER CHILDREN--EDUCATION

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/27/03

Passed by the House April 21, 2003  
Yeas 97 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 9, 2003  
Yeas 45 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

Approved May 7, 2003.

GARY LOCKE

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Cynthia Zehnder, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1058** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

CYNTHIA ZEHNDER

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

May 7, 2003 - 2:26 p.m.

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1058**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2003 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Kagi, Boldt, McIntire, Nixon, Dickerson, Fromhold, O'Brien, Lantz, Linville, Kenney, Kessler, Clibborn, Talcott, Simpson and Wood)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/03.

1            AN ACT Relating to educational attainment of children in foster  
2 care; adding new sections to chapter 74.13 RCW; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the educational  
6 attainment of children in foster care is significantly lower than that  
7 of children not in foster care. The legislature finds that many  
8 factors influence educational outcomes for children in foster care,  
9 including the disruption of the educational process because of  
10 repeatedly changing schools.

11            The legislature recognizes the importance of educational stability  
12 for foster children, and encourages the ongoing efforts of the  
13 department of social and health services and the office of the  
14 superintendent of public instruction to improve educational attainment  
15 of children in foster care. It is the intent of the legislature that  
16 efforts continue such as the recruitment of foster homes in school  
17 districts with high rates of foster care placements, the development  
18 and dissemination of informational materials regarding the challenges

1 faced by children in foster care, and the expansion to other school  
2 districts of best practices identified in pilot projects.

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

5 It is the policy of the state of Washington that, whenever  
6 practical and in the best interest of the child, children placed into  
7 foster care shall remain enrolled in the schools they were attending at  
8 the time they entered foster care.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW  
10 to read as follows:

11 The administrative regions of the department shall develop  
12 protocols with the respective school districts in their regions  
13 specifying specific strategies for communication, coordination, and  
14 collaboration regarding the status and progress of foster children  
15 placed in the region, in order to maximize the educational continuity  
16 and achievement for foster children. The protocols shall include  
17 methods to assure effective sharing of information consistent with RCW  
18 28A.225.330.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW  
20 to read as follows:

21 (1) The department shall establish an oversight committee composed  
22 of staff from the children's administration of the department, the  
23 office of the superintendent of public instruction, and advocacy  
24 agencies to develop strategies for maintaining foster children in the  
25 schools they were attending at the time they entered foster care.

26 (2) The duties of the oversight committee shall include, but are  
27 not limited to:

28 (a) Developing strategies for school-based recruitment of foster  
29 homes;

30 (b) Monitoring the progress of current pilot projects that assist  
31 foster children to continue attending the schools they were attending  
32 at the time they entered foster care;

33 (c) Overseeing the expansion of the number of pilot projects;

34 (d) Promoting the use of best practices, throughout the state,

1 demonstrated by the pilot projects and other programs relating to  
2 maintaining foster children in the schools they were attending at the  
3 time they entered foster care; and

4 (e) Informing the legislature of the status of efforts to maintain  
5 foster children in the schools they were attending at the time they  
6 entered foster care.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9 The department shall work with the administrative office of the  
10 courts to develop protocols to ensure that educational stability is  
11 addressed during the shelter care hearing.

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

14 The department shall perform the tasks provided in sections 2  
15 through 5 of this act based on available resources.

Passed by the House April 21, 2003.

Passed by the Senate April 9, 2003.

Approved by the Governor May 7, 2003.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 7, 2003.