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SENATE BILL 6843

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senators Hargrove and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/28/08. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to youth placements; amending RCW 74.15.240; and  
2 adding a new section to chapter 74.15 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.15 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 To be eligible for placement in a HOPE center, a minor must be  
7 either a street youth, as that term is defined in this chapter, or a  
8 youth who, without placement in a HOPE center, will continue to  
9 participate in increasingly risky behavior. Youth may also self-refer  
10 to a HOPE center. Payment for a HOPE center bed is not contingent upon  
11 prior approval by the department.

12 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.15.240 and 1999 c 267 s 14 are each amended to read  
13 as follows:

14 To be eligible for placement in a responsible living skills  
15 program, the minor must be dependent under chapter 13.34 RCW and must  
16 have lived in a HOPE center or in a secure crisis residential center.  
17 However, if the minor's caseworker determines that placement in a  
18 responsible living skills program would be the most appropriate

1 placement given the minor's current circumstances, prior residence in  
2 a HOPE center or secure crisis residential center before placement in  
3 a responsible living program is not required. Responsible living  
4 skills centers are intended as a placement alternative for dependent  
5 youth that the department chooses for the youth because no other  
6 services or alternative placements have been successful. Responsible  
7 living skills centers are not for dependent youth whose permanency plan  
8 includes return to home or family reunification.

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