
SENATE BILL 6891

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Senators Stevens, Hargrove, Carrell, Brandland, and Roach

Read first time 01/31/08. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to children's administration social workers; adding
2 a new section to chapter 43.20A RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** In November 2007, the Washington state
5 children's administration workload study was released. The study's
6 authors recommended several areas for improved efficiency, including
7 facilitation of data processing, covering "uncovered" caseloads, and
8 compliance with mandatory obligations.

9 In January 2008, the joint legislative audit and review committee
10 issued its report entitled "children's administration social worker
11 qualifications." The report noted that while the children's
12 administration has four social worker classifications, the social
13 worker 1 and 2 classifications are largely unfilled. While these
14 classifications encompass those social workers not yet able or
15 permitted to carry a caseload, the legislature finds that both of these
16 classifications, while training to become case-carrying social workers,
17 can assist other social workers with their cases in a variety of ways.
18 The legislature finds that a more expansive use of social worker 1 and

1 2 classifications should have a positive effect on the ability of the
2 children's administration to address the recommendations of the
3 workload study.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20A RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) When hiring children's administration social workers, the
7 department shall ensure that fifteen percent of those hired at any
8 given time are either social worker 1s or 2s.

9 (2) The department shall establish a training process for social
10 worker 1s and 2s that includes a pathway for these social workers to
11 become social worker 3s.

12 (3) The training process shall include, but is not limited to,
13 assigning tasks and duties that:

14 (a) Are required preparation for the duties of social worker 3s;

15 (b) Include data processing responsibilities necessary to use the
16 information system used by case-carrying social workers; and

17 (c) Require attendance at meetings on behalf of case-carrying
18 social workers which provide instruction both on individual cases and
19 social worker administrative responsibilities.

20 (4) The training process shall also be designed to remediate the
21 current workload of social worker 3s including but not limited to the
22 tasks and duties provided in subsection (3) of this section. The
23 department may assign social worker 1s and 2s to other tasks within
24 their department of personnel classification that will relieve case-
25 carrying social workers of their workload.

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