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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2254**

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**State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2012 Regular Session**

**By** House Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Representatives Carlyle, Kagi, Reykdal, Darneille, Maxwell, Jenkins, Pedersen, Seaquist, Roberts, Dickerson, and Kenney)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/12.

1            AN ACT Relating to improving outcomes for youth in and alumni of  
2 foster care; amending RCW 28B.117.010, 28B.117.020, 28B.117.040,  
3 28B.117.070, 28B.117.060, 28B.118.010, 28A.150.510, 28A.300.525, and  
4 28B.117.901; adding a new section to chapter 13.34 RCW; adding a new  
5 section to chapter 28A.320 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300  
6 RCW; creating new sections; providing an effective date; and providing  
7 an expiration date.

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

9            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    In 2007, with the passport to college  
10 promise program, this state took a significant step toward providing  
11 higher education opportunities to youth in and alumni of foster care.  
12 The passport to college promise program not only provides financial aid  
13 to former foster youth but, just as important, it also recognizes the  
14 critical role of wraparound services and provides early outreach to  
15 foster care youth regarding postsecondary educational opportunities.  
16 The December 2011 report by the higher education coordinating board on  
17 the first three years of the six-year program indicates that the  
18 passport to college promise program has increased the number of former

1 foster youth enrolling in higher education and working toward college  
2 degrees and certificates.

3 This state recognizes that educational success in the early grades  
4 is key to increasing postsecondary opportunities for youth in and  
5 alumni of foster care. Recent efforts in this state to pave the way  
6 for educational success have included legislation: Providing for  
7 wraparound educational advocacy services; mandating the timely  
8 transmission of educational records; and recognizing the importance of  
9 maintaining a foster child in the school program he or she was in  
10 before entering the foster care system and minimizing the number of  
11 times a child has to change schools.

12 The federal fostering connections to success and increasing  
13 adoptions act of 2008, P.L. 110-351, similarly recognizes that schools  
14 are often the most important source of focus and stability for children  
15 in foster care and made several changes to improve educational outcomes  
16 for these children. As part of this nationwide effort, the United  
17 States departments of education and health and human services are  
18 encouraging state and local education agencies and child welfare  
19 agencies to collaborate on policies and procedures to provide  
20 educational stability and improve outcomes for foster children.

21 The legislature reiterates its earlier recognition of the critical  
22 role education plays in improving outcomes for youth in and alumni of  
23 foster care, as well as the key role played by wraparound services in  
24 providing continuity, seamless educational transitions, and higher  
25 levels of educational attainment. With these changes to the passport  
26 to college promise program, the college bound scholarship program, the  
27 provision of more seamless wraparound services, and revisions to  
28 various reporting requirements, the legislature strives to make  
29 Washington the leader in the nation with respect to foster youth and  
30 alumni graduating from high school, enrolling in postsecondary  
31 education, and completing postsecondary education.

32 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.117.010 and 2007 c 314 s 3 are each amended to  
33 read as follows:

34 The passport to college promise (~~(pilot)~~) program is created. The  
35 purpose of the program is:

36 (1) To encourage current and former foster care youth to prepare  
37 for, attend, and successfully complete higher education; (~~and~~)

1       (2) To improve the high school graduation outcomes of foster youth  
2 through coordinated P-20 and child welfare outreach, intervention, and  
3 planning; and

4       (3) To ~~((provide))~~ improve postsecondary outcomes by providing  
5 current and former foster care youth with the educational planning,  
6 information, institutional support, and direct financial resources  
7 necessary for them to succeed in higher education.

8       **Sec. 3.** RCW 28B.117.020 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 220 are each  
9 amended to read as follows:

10       The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter  
11 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

12       (1) "Cost of attendance" means the cost associated with attending  
13 a particular institution of higher education as determined by the  
14 office, including but not limited to tuition, fees, room, board, books,  
15 personal expenses, and transportation, plus the cost of reasonable  
16 additional expenses incurred by an eligible student and approved by a  
17 financial aid administrator at the student's school of attendance.

18       (2) ~~(("Emancipated from foster care" means a person who was a~~  
19 ~~dependent of the state in accordance with chapter 13.34 RCW and who was~~  
20 ~~receiving foster care in the state of Washington when he or she reached~~  
21 ~~his or her eighteenth birthday.~~

22       ~~(3))~~ "Financial need" means the difference between a student's  
23 cost of attendance and the student's total family contribution as  
24 determined by the method prescribed by the United States department of  
25 education.

26       ~~((4))~~ (3) "Independent college or university" means a private,  
27 nonprofit institution of higher education, open to residents of the  
28 state, providing programs of education beyond the high school level  
29 leading to at least the baccalaureate degree, and accredited by the  
30 Northwest association of schools and colleges, and other institutions  
31 as may be developed that are approved by the board as meeting  
32 equivalent standards as those institutions accredited under this  
33 section.

34       ~~((5))~~ (4) "Institution of higher education" means~~((÷~~  
35 ~~(a) Any public university, college, community college, or technical~~  
36 ~~college operated by the state of Washington or any political~~  
37 ~~subdivision thereof; or~~

1 ~~(b) Any independent college or university in Washington; or~~  
2 ~~(c) Any other university, college, school, or institute in the~~  
3 ~~state of Washington offering instruction beyond the high school level~~  
4 ~~that is a member institution of an accrediting association recognized~~  
5 ~~by rule of the higher education coordinating board for the purposes of~~  
6 ~~this section: PROVIDED, That any institution, branch, extension, or~~  
7 ~~facility operating within the state of Washington that is affiliated~~  
8 ~~with an institution operating in another state must be a separately~~  
9 ~~accredited member institution of any such accrediting association, or~~  
10 ~~a branch of a member institution of an accrediting association~~  
11 ~~recognized by rule of the board for purposes of this section, that is~~  
12 ~~eligible for federal student financial aid assistance and has operated~~  
13 ~~as a nonprofit college or university delivering on-site classroom~~  
14 ~~instruction for a minimum of twenty consecutive years within the state~~  
15 ~~of Washington, and has an annual enrollment of at least seven hundred~~  
16 ~~full-time equivalent students)) any institution eligible to and~~  
17 ~~participating in the state need grant program.~~

18 ((+6)) (5) "Office" means the office of student financial  
19 assistance.

20 ((+7)) (6) "Program" means the passport to college promise  
21 ((pilot)) program created in this chapter.

22 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.117.040 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 222 are each  
23 amended to read as follows:

24 Effective operation of the passport to college promise ((pilot))  
25 program requires early and accurate identification of former foster  
26 care youth so that they can be linked to the financial and other  
27 assistance that will help them succeed in college. To that end:

28 (1) All institutions of higher education that receive funding for  
29 student support services under RCW 28B.117.030 shall include on their  
30 applications for admission or on their registration materials a  
31 question asking whether the applicant has been in foster care in  
32 Washington state for at least one year since his or her sixteenth  
33 birthday together with an explanation that financial and support  
34 services may be available. All other institutions of higher education  
35 are strongly encouraged to include such a question and explanation. No  
36 institution may consider whether an applicant may be eligible for a

1 scholarship or student support services under this chapter when  
2 deciding whether the applicant will be granted admission.

3 (2) The department of social and health services shall devise and  
4 implement procedures for efficiently, promptly, and accurately  
5 identifying students and applicants who are eligible for services under  
6 RCW 28B.117.030, and for sharing that information with the office and  
7 with institutions of higher education. The procedures shall include  
8 appropriate safeguards for consent by the applicant or student before  
9 disclosure.

10 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28B.117.070 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 225 are each  
11 amended to read as follows:

12 ~~((1) The office of student financial assistance shall report to  
13 appropriate committees of the legislature by January 15, 2008, on the  
14 status of program design and implementation. The report shall include  
15 a discussion of proposed scholarship and student support service  
16 approaches; an estimate of the number of students who will receive such  
17 services; baseline information on the extent to which former foster  
18 care youth who meet the eligibility criteria in RCW 28B.117.030 have  
19 enrolled and persisted in postsecondary education; and recommendations  
20 for any statutory changes needed to promote achievement of program  
21 objectives.~~

22 ~~(2) The state board for community and technical colleges and the  
23 office of student financial assistance shall monitor and analyze the  
24 extent to which eligible young people are increasing their  
25 participation, persistence, and progress in postsecondary education,  
26 and shall jointly submit a report on their findings to appropriate  
27 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2009, and by December 1,  
28 2011.~~

29 ~~(3))~~ The Washington state institute for public policy shall  
30 complete an evaluation of the passport to college promise (~~pilot~~)  
31 program and shall submit a report to appropriate committees of the  
32 legislature by December 1, 2012. The report shall estimate the impact  
33 of the program on eligible students' participation and success in  
34 postsecondary education, and shall include recommendations for program  
35 revision and improvement.

1           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 13.34 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3           (1) The educational advocacy program is created with the purpose of  
4 improving educational outcomes for students who are dependent pursuant  
5 to this chapter, including increasing high school graduation rates,  
6 improving school continuity, and reducing out-of-school discipline  
7 interventions.

8           (2) To the extent funds are available for this purpose, the  
9 department shall administer the program and shall contract with at  
10 least one nongovernmental entity with demonstrated success in working  
11 with foster care youth and assisting foster care youth in receiving  
12 appropriate educational services. Priority for program services shall  
13 be provided to regions with high numbers of foster care youth and  
14 regions that request educational outreach services.

15           (3) The department may use private matching funds to enhance  
16 educational advocacy services.

17           (4) The selected nongovernmental entity or entities must report  
18 outcomes biannually to the department.

19           **Sec. 7.** RCW 28B.117.060 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 224 are each  
20 amended to read as follows:

21           ~~(1) ((To the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose, the~~  
22 ~~department of social and health services, with input from the state~~  
23 ~~board for community and technical colleges, the office, and~~  
24 ~~institutions of higher education, shall contract with at least one~~  
25 ~~nongovernmental entity through a request for proposals process to~~  
26 ~~develop, implement, and administer a program of supplemental~~  
27 ~~educational transition planning for youth in foster care in Washington~~  
28 ~~state.~~

29           ~~(2) The nongovernmental entity or entities chosen by the department~~  
30 ~~shall have demonstrated success in working with foster care youth and~~  
31 ~~assisting foster care youth in successfully making the transition from~~  
32 ~~foster care to independent adulthood.~~

33           ~~(3) The selected nongovernmental entity or entities shall provide~~  
34 ~~supplemental educational transition planning to foster care youth in~~  
35 ~~Washington state beginning at age fourteen and then at least every six~~  
36 ~~months thereafter. The supplemental transition planning shall include:~~

1       ~~(a) Comprehensive information regarding postsecondary educational~~  
2 ~~opportunities including, but not limited to, sources of financial aid,~~  
3 ~~institutional characteristics and record of support for former foster~~  
4 ~~care youth, transportation, housing, and other logistical~~  
5 ~~considerations;~~

6       ~~(b) How and when to apply to postsecondary educational programs;~~

7       ~~(c) What precollege tests, if any, the particular foster care youth~~  
8 ~~should take based on his or her postsecondary plans and when to take~~  
9 ~~the tests;~~

10       ~~(d) What courses to take to prepare the particular foster care~~  
11 ~~youth to succeed at his or her postsecondary plans;~~

12       ~~(e) Social, community, educational, logistical, and other issues~~  
13 ~~that frequently impact college students and their success rates; and~~

14       ~~(f) Which web sites, nongovernmental entities, public agencies, and~~  
15 ~~other foster care youth support providers specialize in which services.~~

16       ~~(4) The selected nongovernmental entity or entities shall work~~  
17 ~~directly with the school counselors at the foster care youths' high~~  
18 ~~schools to ensure that a consistent and complete transition plan has~~  
19 ~~been prepared for each foster care youth who emancipates out of the~~  
20 ~~foster care system in Washington state.)) To the extent funds are~~  
21 ~~appropriated for this purpose, the department of social and health~~  
22 ~~services must contract with at least one nongovernmental entity to~~  
23 ~~administer a program of education coordination for youth who are~~  
24 ~~dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW, birth through twelfth grade in~~  
25 ~~Washington state. The selected nongovernmental entity or entities must~~  
26 ~~engage in a public-private partnership with the department of social~~  
27 ~~and health services, and shall be responsible for raising a portion of~~  
28 ~~the funds needed for service delivery, administration, and evaluation.~~

29       (2) The nongovernmental entity or entities selected by the  
30 department of social and health services shall have demonstrated  
31 success in working with foster care youth and assisting foster care  
32 youth in receiving appropriate educational services, including  
33 enrollment, access to school-based services, reduction out-of-school  
34 discipline interventions, and attaining high school graduation.

35       (3) The selected nongovernmental entity or entities must provide  
36 services to support individual youth upon a referral by a social worker  
37 with the department of social and health services or a nongovernmental  
38 agency with responsibility for education support services. The

1 selected nongovernmental entity or entities will be colocated in the  
2 offices of the department of social and health services to provide  
3 timely consultation and in-service training. These entities must have  
4 access to all paper and electronic case information pertinent to the  
5 educational planning and services of youth referred.

6 (4) The selected nongovernmental entity or entities must report  
7 outcomes biannually to the department of social and health services.

8 NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 In order to facilitate the on-time grade level progression and  
11 graduation of students who are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW,  
12 school districts must incorporate the following procedures:

13 (1) School districts must waive specific courses required for  
14 graduation if similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed in  
15 another school district or must provide reasonable justification for  
16 denial. Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would qualify  
17 to graduate from the sending school district, the receiving school  
18 district must use best efforts to provide an alternative means of  
19 acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on time.

20 (2) School districts are encouraged to consolidate unresolved or  
21 incomplete coursework and provide opportunities for credit accrual  
22 through local classroom hours, correspondence courses, or the portable  
23 assisted study sequence units designed for migrant high school  
24 students.

25 (3) Should a student who is transferring at the beginning or during  
26 the student's junior or senior year be ineligible to graduate from the  
27 receiving school district after all alternatives have been considered,  
28 the sending and receiving districts must ensure the receipt of a  
29 diploma from the sending district if the student meets the graduation  
30 requirements of the sending district.

31 **Sec. 9.** RCW 28B.118.010 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 226 are each  
32 amended to read as follows:

33 The office of student financial assistance shall design the  
34 Washington college bound scholarship program in accordance with this  
35 section.

36 (1) "Eligible students" are those students who:

1        (a) Qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. If a student  
2 qualifies in the seventh grade, the student remains eligible even if  
3 the student does not receive free or reduced-price lunches thereafter;  
4 or

5        (b) Are dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW and:

6        (i) In grade seven through twelve; or

7        (ii) Are less than twenty-one years of age and have not graduated  
8 from high school.

9        (2) Eligible students shall be notified of their eligibility for  
10 the Washington college bound scholarship program beginning in their  
11 seventh grade year. Students shall also be notified of the  
12 requirements for award of the scholarship.

13        (3)(a) To be eligible for a Washington college bound scholarship,  
14 a student eligible under subsection (1)(a) of this section must sign a  
15 pledge during seventh or eighth grade that includes a commitment to  
16 graduate from high school with at least a C average and with no felony  
17 convictions. ((Students who were in the eighth grade during the 2007-  
18 08 school year may sign the pledge during the 2008-09 school year.))  
19 The pledge must be witnessed by a parent or guardian and forwarded to  
20 the office of student financial assistance by mail or electronically,  
21 as indicated on the pledge form.

22        (b) A student eligible under subsection (1)(b) of this section  
23 shall be automatically enrolled, with no action necessary by the  
24 student or the student's family, and the enrollment form must be  
25 forwarded by the department of social and health services to the higher  
26 education coordinating board or its successor by mail or  
27 electronically, as indicated on the form.

28        (4)(a) Scholarships shall be awarded to eligible students  
29 graduating from public high schools, approved private high schools  
30 under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or who received home-based instruction under  
31 chapter 28A.200 RCW.

32        (b) To receive the Washington college bound scholarship, a student  
33 must graduate with at least a "C" average from a public high school or  
34 an approved private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW in Washington  
35 or have received home-based instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, must  
36 have no felony convictions, and must be a resident student as defined  
37 in RCW 28B.15.012(2) (a) through (d).

1 (5) A student's family income will be assessed upon graduation  
2 before awarding the scholarship.

3 (6) If at graduation from high school the student's family income  
4 does not exceed sixty-five percent of the state median family income,  
5 scholarship award amounts shall be as provided in this section.

6 (a) For students attending two or four-year institutions of higher  
7 education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, the value of the award shall be  
8 (i) the difference between the student's tuition and required fees,  
9 less the value of any state-funded grant, scholarship, or waiver  
10 assistance the student receives; (ii) plus five hundred dollars for  
11 books and materials.

12 (b) For students attending private four-year institutions of higher  
13 education in Washington, the award amount shall be the representative  
14 average of awards granted to students in public research universities  
15 in Washington.

16 (c) For students attending private vocational schools in  
17 Washington, the award amount shall be the representative average of  
18 awards granted to students in public community and technical colleges  
19 in Washington.

20 (7) Recipients may receive no more than four full-time years' worth  
21 of scholarship awards.

22 (8) Institutions of higher education shall award the student all  
23 need-based and merit-based financial aid for which the student would  
24 otherwise qualify. The Washington college bound scholarship is  
25 intended to replace unmet need, loans, and, at the student's option,  
26 work-study award before any other grants or scholarships are reduced.

27 (9) The first scholarships shall be awarded to students graduating  
28 in 2012.

29 (10) The state of Washington retains legal ownership of tuition  
30 units awarded as scholarships under this chapter until the tuition  
31 units are redeemed. These tuition units shall remain separately held  
32 from any tuition units owned under chapter 28B.95 RCW by a Washington  
33 college bound scholarship recipient.

34 (11) The scholarship award must be used within five years of  
35 receipt. Any unused scholarship tuition units revert to the Washington  
36 college bound scholarship account.

37 (12) Should the recipient terminate his or her enrollment for any

1 reason during the academic year, the unused portion of the scholarship  
2 tuition units shall revert to the Washington college bound scholarship  
3 account.

4 **Sec. 10.** RCW 28A.150.510 and 2008 c 297 s 5 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) In order to effectively serve students who are dependent  
7 pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW, education records shall be transmitted  
8 to the department of social and health services within two school days  
9 after receiving the request from the department provided that the  
10 department certifies that it will not disclose to any other party the  
11 education records without prior written consent of the parent or  
12 student unless authorized to disclose the records under state law. The  
13 department of social and health services is authorized to disclose  
14 education records it obtains pursuant to this section to a foster  
15 parent, guardian, or other entity authorized by the department to  
16 provide residential care to the student. The department is also  
17 authorized to disclose educational records it obtains pursuant to this  
18 section to those entities with which it has contracted, or with which  
19 it is formally collaborating, having responsibility for educational  
20 support services and educational outcomes of students who are dependent  
21 pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW. The department is encouraged to put in  
22 place data-sharing agreements to assure accountability.

23 (2)(a) The K-12 data governance group established under RCW  
24 28A.300.507 shall create a comprehensive needs requirement document  
25 detailing the specific information, technical capacity, and any federal  
26 and state statutory and regulatory changes needed by school districts,  
27 the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the department  
28 of social and health services, or the higher education coordinating  
29 board or its successor, to enable the provision, on at least a  
30 quarterly basis, of:

31 (i) Current education records of students who are dependent  
32 pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW to the department of social and health  
33 services and, from the department, to those entities with which the  
34 department has contracted, or with which it is formally collaborating,  
35 having responsibility for educational support services and educational  
36 outcomes; and

1        (ii) The names and contact information of students who are  
2 dependent pursuant to chapter 13.34 RCW and are thirteen years or older  
3 to the higher education coordinating board or its successor and the  
4 private agency with which it has contracted to perform outreach for the  
5 passport to college promise program under chapter 28B.117 RCW or the  
6 college bound scholarship program under chapter 28B.118.RCW.

7        (b) In complying with (a) of this subsection, the K-12 data  
8 governance group shall consult with: Educational support service  
9 organizations, with which the department of social and health services  
10 contracts or collaborates, having responsibility for educational  
11 support services and educational outcomes of dependent students; the  
12 passport to college advisory committee; the education support service  
13 organizations under contract to perform outreach for the passport to  
14 college promise program under chapter 28B.117 RCW; the department of  
15 social and health services; the office of the attorney general; the  
16 higher education coordinating board or its successor; and the office of  
17 the administrator for the courts.

18        (c) By December 1, 2012, the superintendent of public instruction  
19 shall submit a report to the governor and the appropriate committees of  
20 the legislature regarding: The analysis of needs by the K-12 data  
21 governance group; a timeline for addressing those needs for which no  
22 statutory changes are necessary and that can be implemented within  
23 existing resources; and recommended options for addressing identified  
24 needs for which statutory changes, additional funding, or both, are  
25 necessary.

26        NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
27 RCW to read as follows:

28        By December 1, 2012, and on an annual basis through December 1,  
29 2015, the superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with  
30 the department of social and health services and the office of the  
31 administrator for the courts, shall submit a report to the governor and  
32 the appropriate committees of the legislature regarding the content and  
33 implementation status of the state's plan for cross-system  
34 collaboration to promote educational stability and improve educational  
35 outcomes for foster children pursuant to the requirements of the  
36 federal fostering connections to success and increasing adoptions act,

1 P.L. 110-351. The annual report must include, but is not limited to,  
2 information regarding:

3 (1) A description of the process used to determine students' best  
4 interest in continued enrollment at the school the student was in at  
5 the time of initial placement or change of placement;

6 (2) The number of days, following initial placement or change of  
7 placement, to resume school at the school the student was in at the  
8 time of initial placement or change of placement or complete new school  
9 enrollment and attend at a new school;

10 (3) The number of days from request to delivery of school records  
11 from the sending school to the receiving school; and

12 (4) Documentation of a plan and use of federal title IV-E dollars  
13 to support transportation for educational continuity as envisioned in  
14 the federal fostering connections to success and increasing adoptions  
15 act, P.L. 110-351.

16 **Sec. 12.** RCW 28A.300.525 and 2008 c 297 s 2 are each amended to  
17 read as follows:

18 The (~~(superintendent of public instruction)~~) education data center  
19 shall (~~(provide an annual aggregate report to the legislature on)~~)  
20 include in its reporting as part of the P-20 education data project the  
21 educational experiences and progress of students in children's  
22 administration out-of-home care. This data should be disaggregated in  
23 the smallest units allowable by law that do not identify an individual  
24 student, in order to learn which school districts are experiencing the  
25 greatest success and challenges in achieving quality educational  
26 outcomes with students in children's administration out-of-home care.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The legislature strongly recommends that  
28 the entities with which the department of social and health services  
29 contracts or collaborates to provide educational support services and  
30 educational outcomes for students who are dependent under chapter 13.34  
31 RCW and the private agency under contract with the higher education  
32 coordinating board or its successor to perform outreach for the  
33 passport to college promise program under chapter 28B.117 RCW and the  
34 college bound scholarship program under chapter 28B.118 RCW explore  
35 models for harnessing technology to keep in constant touch with the  
36 students they serve and keep these students engaged.

1       **Sec. 14.** RCW 28B.117.901 and 2007 c 314 s 10 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       This chapter expires June 30, (~~2013~~) 2022.

4       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 15.** This act may be known and cited as the  
5 educational success for youth and alumni of foster care act.

6       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 16.** This act takes effect July 1, 2012.

--- END ---