
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1734

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By House Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Kagi, Walsh, Rodne, Fey, Jenkins, Pettigrew, Carlyle, and McBride)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to creation of the one family one team public-
2 private court innovation demonstration; adding new sections to
3 chapter 2.56 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that
6 families across the state are impacted by decisions made in
7 dependency court proceedings. While phase I of the family and
8 juvenile court improvement program has led to improvements in
9 dependency court process, including timely resolution of cases, more
10 needs to be done to ensure good outcomes for families.

11 (2) The legislature intends to support a public-private
12 initiative to design and fund phase II of the family and juvenile
13 court improvement program with demonstration sites that provide
14 trained, committed judicial leaders, an early resolution
15 intervention, and a dedicated multidisciplinary decision-making team
16 in child welfare court cases. The early resolution demonstration
17 initiative will build upon the improvements achieved by the family
18 and juvenile court improvement program.

19 (3) The legislature's intent is to provide structure, support,
20 and funding to advance superior court operations consistent with
21 unified family court principles. Phase I of the family and juvenile

1 court improvement program advances court leadership, education, and
2 support. Phase II, consisting of the one family one team
3 demonstration courts, will further advance court practices to improve
4 outcomes for well-being and timeliness.

5 (4) An evaluation of these sites will determine whether the early
6 resolution component improves outcomes for families. These
7 evaluations will then be available to courts across the state so that
8 they can adapt their practices to ensure better outcomes.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 2.56 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 (1) The administrative office of the courts and the advisory
12 committee for the family and juvenile court improvement program,
13 phase I and II, shall participate in the one family one team public-
14 private partnership, a nongovernmental public-private partnership
15 that supports innovation in dependency court proceedings that provide
16 well-trained and committed judicial leaders, an early resolution
17 intervention, and a multidisciplinary team.

18 (2) The one family one team public-private partnership may
19 receive staffing support and meeting space from a private nonprofit
20 organization dedicated to reforming the juvenile justice and child
21 welfare systems in the state if that organization has the capacity to
22 host the partnership and the partnership members agree to that
23 organization.

24 (3) The public-private partnership shall identify private funding
25 that will match public investment in the court demonstration program
26 described in section 3 of this act. Public funding of the program is
27 contingent on the commitment of private match.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 2.56 RCW
29 to read as follows:

30 (1) As used in this section, "early resolution intervention"
31 means a legal or social service program used during the early stages
32 of child welfare cases used in an effort to resolve these cases
33 sooner.

34 (2) The one family one team public-private partnership shall
35 spend its first year designing and planning the criteria for the
36 family and juvenile court improvement program phase II court
37 demonstration program to provide grants to superior courts wishing to
38 implement the model, on a competitive basis.

1 (3) The partnership shall:

2 (a) Convene a planning and design committee composed of
3 stakeholders and experts to identify an early resolution intervention
4 model. A representative from the superior courts and a member of the
5 private partners supporting the initiative shall cochair the
6 committee. The committee shall identify the early resolution
7 intervention model by December 1, 2015;

8 (b) By January 1, 2016, provide to the appropriate committees of
9 the legislature a statement of the public and private funding
10 required in order to provide demonstration grants to four counties;
11 and

12 (c) Design grant guidelines and selection criteria for grant
13 recipients based on a contractual agreement with the administrative
14 office of the courts. If public funding is made available, the
15 partnership shall administer a competitive grant program open to any
16 superior court in the state. In order for any application to be
17 considered, the grant application must include:

18 (i) Agreement between the superior court, the department of
19 social and health services, the office of the attorney general, and
20 the office of public defense to fully participate in the court
21 demonstration program;

22 (ii) Commitment to provide judicial officers with ongoing
23 training in issues unique to child welfare court;

24 (iii) Assignment of judicial officers to courts responsible for
25 family and juvenile matters for a minimum of two years and allow
26 those judicial officers the option of remaining in family and
27 juvenile court beyond the minimum assignment length and consistent
28 with general rule 29 of the Washington court rules;

29 (iv) Creation of a team-based approach in child welfare cases of
30 professionals working together toward solving the problems facing
31 each family;

32 (v) Provision of cross-system training to the team of
33 professionals in subject areas unique to child welfare proceedings;

34 (vi) Implementation of an early resolution component as
35 determined by (a) of this subsection; and

36 (vii) Participation in an evaluation conducted by a research
37 entity with experience and expertise in child welfare systems
38 research. Participation must include sharing data, identifying
39 treatment and control groups, identifying research questions, and

1 establishing outcome measures for all components in the model for all
2 test sites.

3 (4) The grants administered by the partnership through contract
4 with the administrative office of the courts in this section may only
5 be used to support programs or processes aligned with the criteria
6 identified in subsection (3)(c) of this section and may not be used
7 to support general court operations.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 2.56 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 (1) The one family one team public-private partnership account is
11 hereby created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts
12 from funds appropriated by the legislature and funds received from
13 other sources for the one family one team public-private partnership
14 must be deposited in the account. Expenditures from the account may
15 only be used for supporting child welfare court programs and
16 processes that foster judicial leadership, promote innovative
17 practice including early resolution interventions, and adhere to a
18 team-based approach.

19 (2) Beginning August 1, 2015, and subject to availability of
20 funds in the account, the administrative office of the courts shall
21 only use funds in the account to contract with the one family one
22 team public-private partnership to design and administer planning
23 grants.

24 (3) The administrative office of the courts oversees and is the
25 lead state agency for the account. Only the director of the
26 administrative office of the courts or the director's designee may
27 authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to
28 allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is
29 not required for expenditures.

30 (4) Authorizations for expenditures may be given only after
31 private funds are committed.

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