
HOUSE BILL 2394

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Walsh, Senn, Kagi, Moscoso, Kilduff, Kochmar, Dent, Holy, Sawyer, Jinkins, Tharinger, Magendanz, Fey, Tarleton, Zeiger, Sells, McBride, Bergquist, Pollet, Santos, S. Hunt, and Goodman

Read first time 01/13/16. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the parent to parent program for
2 individuals with developmental disabilities; adding new sections to
3 chapter 71A.14 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** For over thirty years, parent to parent
6 programs for individuals with developmental disabilities have been
7 providing emotional and informational support to families of children
8 who have special needs by matching parents seeking support with an
9 experienced and trained support parent.

10 The parent to parent program currently exists in thirty-one
11 counties: Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Columbia,
12 Cowlitz, Douglas, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island,
13 Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Kittitas, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Pacific,
14 Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Walla Walla, Whatcom,
15 Whitman, and Yakima. It is the legislature's goal to continue,
16 support, and enhance the programs in these counties and expand these
17 programs statewide by 2021.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.14
19 RCW to read as follows:

1 The goals of the parent to parent program for individuals with
2 developmental disabilities are to:

3 (1) Provide early outreach, support, and education to parents who
4 have a child with special needs;

5 (2) Match a trained volunteer support parent with a new parent
6 who has a child with similar needs to the child of the support
7 parent; and

8 (3) Provide parents with tools and resources to be successful as
9 they learn to understand the support and advocacy needs of their
10 children.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.14
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this
14 specific purpose, activities of the parent to parent program for
15 individuals with developmental disabilities may include:

16 (1) Outreach and support to newly identified parents of children
17 with special needs;

18 (2) Trainings that educate parents in ways to support their child
19 and navigate the complex health, educational, and social systems;

20 (3) Ongoing peer support from a trained volunteer support parent;
21 and

22 (4) Regular communication with other local programs to ensure
23 consistent practices.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.14
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 (1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this
27 specific purpose, the parent to parent program for individuals with
28 developmental disabilities must be funded through the department and
29 centrally administered through a pass-through to a Washington state
30 lead organization that has extensive experience supporting and
31 training support parents for individuals with developmental
32 disabilities.

33 (2) Through the contract with the lead organization, each local
34 program must be locally administered by an organization that shall
35 serve as the host organization.

36 (3) Parents of children with developmental disabilities shall
37 serve as advisors to the host organizations.

1 (4) A parent or grandparent of a child with developmental
2 disabilities shall provide program coordination and local program
3 information.

4 (5) The lead organization shall provide ongoing training to the
5 host organizations and statewide program oversight and maintain
6 statewide program information.

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