
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6329

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services, Mental Health & Housing (originally sponsored by Senators O'Ban, Conway, Becker, Fain, Cleveland, Dammeier, Keiser, Darneille, Rolfes, Hobbs, Litzow, Angel, McAuliffe, Habib, and Jayapal)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/16.

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 either developmental disabilities, or
7 special health care needs, or both, have been providing emotional and
8 informational support 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:

20 The goals of the parent to parent program are to:

- 1 (1) Provide early outreach, support, and education to parents who
2 have a child with special needs;
- 3 (2) Match a trained volunteer support parent with a new parent
4 who has a child with similar needs to the child of the support
5 parent; and
- 6 (3) Provide parents with tools and resources to be successful as
7 they learn to understand the support and advocacy needs of their
8 children.

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

11 Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this
12 specific purpose, activities of the parent to parent program may
13 include:

- 14 (1) Outreach and support to newly identified parents of children
15 with special needs;
- 16 (2) Trainings that educate parents in ways to support their child
17 and navigate the complex health, educational, and social systems;
- 18 (3) Ongoing peer support from a trained volunteer support parent;
19 and
- 20 (4) Regular communication with other local programs to ensure
21 consistent practices.

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

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

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

32 (3) Parents shall serve as advisors to the host organizations.

33 (4) A parent or grandparent of a child with developmental
34 disabilities or special health care needs shall provide program
35 coordination and local program information.

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

1 (6) For the purpose of this act, "special health care needs"
2 means disabilities or handicapping conditions, chronic illnesses or
3 conditions, health related educational or behavioral problems, or the
4 risk of developing such disabilities, conditions, illnesses or
5 problems.

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