

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1898**

Chapter 286, Laws of 2015

64th Legislature  
2015 Regular Session

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION--CHILD VICTIM TESTIMONY

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/24/2015

Passed by the House April 16, 2015  
Yeas 96 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP

**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 13, 2015  
Yeas 45 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN

**President of the Senate**

Approved May 18, 2015 1:56 PM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1898** as passed by House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BARBARA BAKER

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

May 18, 2015

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1898**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2015 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session**

**By** House Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Ortiz-Self, Johnson, Walkinshaw, Muri, Robinson, Pettigrew, Lytton, and Kilduff)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/15.

1            AN ACT Relating to protection of child victims; amending RCW  
2 43.101.270; adding a new section to chapter 43.101 RCW; and creating  
3 a new section.

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

5            NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 1.**        (1) The legislature finds that RCW  
6 9A.44.150, which allows testimony of child victims by closed-circuit  
7 television in certain cases, helps protect certain child witnesses.  
8 During the prosecution of many child abuse cases, child victims may  
9 suffer serious emotional and mental trauma from exposure to the  
10 abuser. Some of these child victims are unable to testify at all in  
11 the presence of the abuser. For these reasons, the legislature found  
12 it a compelling state interest to allow for remote testimony in  
13 certain cases to enhance the truth-seeking process and to shield  
14 child victims from trauma.

15            (2) The legislature further finds that while there is a  
16 possibility for certain child victims to testify remotely in some  
17 cases, this procedure is rarely used. The legislature intends to  
18 raise awareness regarding this procedure by including it in training  
19 materials for investigating and prosecuting sexual assault cases.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.101.270 and 1991 c 267 s 2 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Each year the criminal justice training commission shall  
4 offer an intensive, integrated training session on investigating and  
5 prosecuting sexual assault cases. The training shall place particular  
6 emphasis on the development of professionalism and sensitivity  
7 towards the victim and the victim's family.

8       (2) The commission shall seek advice from the Washington  
9 association of prosecuting attorneys, the Washington defender  
10 association, the Washington association of sheriffs and police  
11 chiefs, and the Washington coalition of sexual assault programs.

12       (3) The training shall be an integrated approach to sexual  
13 assault cases so that prosecutors, law enforcement, defenders, and  
14 victim advocates can all benefit from the training.

15       (4) The training shall be self-supporting through fees charged to  
16 the participants of the training.

17       (5) The training shall include a reference to the possibility  
18 that a court may allow children under the age of fourteen to testify  
19 in a room outside the presence of the defendant and the jury pursuant  
20 to RCW 9A.44.150.

21       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.101  
22 RCW to read as follows:

23       The criminal justice training commission shall annually survey  
24 law enforcement and prosecuting agencies regarding, with respect to  
25 the preceding year: (1) The frequency of cases where children under  
26 the age of fourteen have elected not to testify, including the  
27 reasons for the election not to testify; (2) the number of cases  
28 where remote testimony pursuant to RCW 9A.44.150 was used and whether  
29 those cases resulted in conviction; and (3) the total number of child  
30 sexual abuse cases referred for prosecution and the number of those  
31 cases that were prosecuted. The results of the survey described in  
32 this section must be reported every other year to the appropriate  
33 committees of the legislature with an initial reporting date of  
34 December 1, 2015.

Passed by the House April 16, 2015.  
Passed by the Senate April 13, 2015.  
Approved by the Governor May 18, 2015.  
Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 18, 2015.

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