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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1609**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** House Human Services & Early Learning (originally sponsored by Representatives Van Werven, Shewmake, and Eslick)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to conducting an evaluation of resource and  
2 assessment centers; creating a new section; and providing an  
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The Washington state institute for  
6 public policy shall evaluate the outcomes of resource and assessment  
7 centers contracted by the department of children, youth, and  
8 families. For this evaluation, the Washington state institute for  
9 public policy shall collect data regarding:

10 (a) The type of placement children experience following placement  
11 at a resource and assessment center;

12 (b) The number of placement changes that children experience  
13 following placement in a resource and assessment center compared with  
14 other foster youth;

15 (c) The length of stay in foster care that children experience  
16 following placement in a resource and assessment center compared with  
17 other foster youth;

18 (d) The likelihood that children placed in a resource and  
19 assessment center will be placed with siblings; and

20 (e) The length of time that foster families accepting children  
21 placed in resource and assessment centers continue to foster children

1 compared to foster families receiving children directly from child  
2 protective services.

3 (2) The Washington state institute for public policy shall  
4 provide a report to the relevant committees of the legislature in  
5 compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the department of children, youth, and  
6 families, the oversight board for children, youth, and families under  
7 RCW 43.216.015, and the governor by December 1, 2020, that provides  
8 the findings of the evaluation conducted under this section.

9 (3) For purposes of this section, "resource and assessment  
10 center" means an entity that meets the requirements of RCW 74.15.311.

11 (4) This section expires July 1, 2021.

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