SENATE BILL 5955

State of Washington 66th Legislature 2019 Regular Session

By Senators Lovelett, Zeiger, Darneille, Walsh, Randall, Nguyen, and Wilson, C.; by request of Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Read first time 02/18/19. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation.

AN ACT Relating to making necessary changes allowing the 1 2 department of children, youth, and families to effectively manage a 3 statewide system of care for children, youth, and families; amending 13.34.136, 13.34.270, 13.36.030, 18.19.020, 26.26A.260, 4 5 26.50.150, 41.04.674, 41.37.010, 42.56.230, 43.43.837, 43.216.390, 68.50.105, 74.04.790, 74.13.110, 74.13.350, 74.15.030, and 13.50.100; 6 7 adding a new section to chapter 43.20B RCW; adding a new section to 8 chapter 43.216 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 74.14B RCW; and 9 repealing RCW 43.20A.870 and 74.14C.070.

- 10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 11 **Sec. 1.** RCW 13.34.136 and 2018 c 284 s 13 are each amended to 12 read as follows:
- Whenever a child is ordered removed from the home, 13 (1)14 permanency plan shall be developed no later than sixty days from the 15 time the department assumes responsibility for providing services, 16 including placing the child, or at the time of a hearing under RCW 17 13.34.130, whichever occurs first. The permanency planning process continues until a permanency planning goal is achieved or dependency 18 is dismissed. The planning process shall include reasonable efforts 19 20 to return the child to the parent's home.

p. 1 SB 5955

(2) The department shall submit a written permanency plan to all parties and the court not less than fourteen days prior to the scheduled hearing. Responsive reports of parties not in agreement with the department's proposed permanency plan must be provided to the department, all other parties, and the court at least seven days prior to the hearing.

The permanency plan shall include:

1

2

3

4

5

7

8

9

10

1112

13

14

1516

17

1819

2021

22

23

2425

26

27

28

29

30 31

32

33

34

3536

3738

39

40

- (a) A permanency plan of care that shall identify one of the following outcomes as a primary goal and may identify additional outcomes as alternative goals: Return of the child to the home of the child's parent, quardian, or legal custodian; adoption, including a tribal customary adoption as defined in RCW 13.38.040; guardianship; permanent legal custody; long-term relative or foster care, if the child is between ages sixteen and eighteen, with a written agreement between the parties and the care provider; successful completion of a responsible living skills program; or independent living, appropriate and if the child is age sixteen or older. Although a permanency plan of care may only identify long-term relative or foster care for children between ages sixteen and eighteen, children under sixteen may remain placed with relatives or in foster care. The department shall not discharge a child to an independent living situation before the child is eighteen years of age unless the child becomes emancipated pursuant to chapter 13.64 RCW;
- (b) Unless the court has ordered, pursuant to RCW 13.34.130(8), that a termination petition be filed, a specific plan as to where the child will be placed, what steps will be taken to return the child home, what steps the department will take to promote existing appropriate sibling relationships and/or facilitate placement together or contact in accordance with the best interests of each child, and what actions the department will take to maintain parent-child ties. All aspects of the plan shall include the goal of achieving permanence for the child.
- (i) The department's plan shall specify what services the parents will be offered to enable them to resume custody, what requirements the parents must meet to resume custody, and a time limit for each service plan and parental requirement.
- (A) If the parent is incarcerated, the plan must address how the parent will participate in the case conference and permanency planning meetings and, where possible, must include treatment that reflects the resources available at the facility where the parent is

p. 2 SB 5955

confined. The plan must provide for visitation opportunities, unless visitation is not in the best interests of the child.

- (B) If a parent has a developmental disability according to the definition provided in RCW 71A.10.020, and that individual is eligible for services provided by the department of social and health services developmental disabilities administration, the department shall make reasonable efforts to consult with the department of social and health services developmental disabilities administration to create an appropriate plan for services. For individuals who meet the definition of developmental disability provided in RCW 71A.10.020 and who are eligible for services through the developmental disabilities administration, the plan for services must be tailored to correct the parental deficiency taking into consideration the parent's disability and the department shall also determine an appropriate method to offer those services based on the parent's disability.
- (ii) (A) Visitation is the right of the family, including the child and the parent, in cases in which visitation is in the best interest of the child. Early, consistent, and frequent visitation is crucial for maintaining parent-child relationships and making it possible for parents and children to safely reunify. The department shall encourage the maximum parent and child and sibling contact possible, when it is in the best interest of the child, including regular visitation and participation by the parents in the care of the child while the child is in placement.
- (B) Visitation shall not be limited as a sanction for a parent's failure to comply with court orders or services where the health, safety, or welfare of the child is not at risk as a result of the visitation.
- (C) Visitation may be limited or denied only if the court determines that such limitation or denial is necessary to protect the child's health, safety, or welfare. When a parent or sibling has been identified as a suspect in an active criminal investigation for a violent crime that, if the allegations are true, would impact the safety of the child, the department shall make a concerted effort to consult with the assigned law enforcement officer in the criminal case before recommending any changes in parent/child or child/sibling contact. In the event that the law enforcement officer has information pertaining to the criminal case that may have serious implications for child safety or well-being, the law enforcement

p. 3 SB 5955

- officer shall provide this information to the department during the 1 consultation. The department may only use the information provided by 2 law enforcement during the consultation to inform family visitation 3 plans and may not share or otherwise distribute the information to 4 any person or entity. Any information provided to the department by 5 6 law enforcement during the consultation is considered investigative 7 information and is exempt from public inspection pursuant to RCW 42.56.240. The results of the consultation shall be communicated to 8 9 the court.
 - (D) The court and the department should rely upon community resources, relatives, foster parents, and other appropriate persons to provide transportation and supervision for visitation to the extent that such resources are available, and appropriate, and the child's safety would not be compromised.

1112

1314

1516

17

18

1920

21

22

23

2425

26

27

28

29

30

3536

37

3839

- (iii) (A) The department, court, or caregiver in the out-of-home placement may not limit visitation or contact between a child and sibling as a sanction for a child's behavior or as an incentive to the child to change his or her behavior.
- (B) Any exceptions, limitation, or denial of contacts or visitation must be approved by the supervisor of the department caseworker and documented. The child, parent, department, guardian ad litem, or court-appointed special advocate may challenge the denial of visits in court.
- (iv) A child shall be placed as close to the child's home as possible, preferably in the child's own neighborhood, unless the court finds that placement at a greater distance is necessary to promote the child's or parents' well-being.
- (v) The plan shall state whether both in-state and, where appropriate, out-of-state placement options have been considered by the department.
- 31 (vi) Unless it is not in the best interests of the child, 32 whenever practical, the plan should ensure the child remains enrolled 33 in the school the child was attending at the time the child entered 34 foster care.
 - (vii) The department shall provide all reasonable services that are available within the department, or within the community, or those services which the department has existing contracts to purchase. It shall report to the court if it is unable to provide such services; and

p. 4 SB 5955

(c) If the court has ordered, pursuant to RCW 13.34.130(8), that a termination petition be filed, a specific plan as to where the child will be placed, what steps will be taken to achieve permanency for the child, services to be offered or provided to the child, and, if visitation would be in the best interests of the child, a recommendation to the court regarding visitation between parent and child pending a fact-finding hearing on the termination petition. The department shall not be required to develop a plan of services for the parents or provide services to the parents if the court orders a termination petition be filed. However, reasonable efforts to ensure visitation and contact between siblings shall be made unless there is reasonable cause to believe the best interests of the child or siblings would be jeopardized.

- (3) Permanency planning goals should be achieved at the earliest possible date. If the child has been in out-of-home care for fifteen of the most recent twenty-two months, and the court has not made a good cause exception, the court shall require the department to file a petition seeking termination of parental rights in accordance with RCW 13.34.145(4)(b)(vi). In cases where parental rights have been terminated, the child is legally free for adoption, and adoption has been identified as the primary permanency planning goal, it shall be a goal to complete the adoption within six months following entry of the termination order.
- (4) If the court determines that the continuation of reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need to remove the child from his or her home or to safely return the child home should not be part of the permanency plan of care for the child, reasonable efforts shall be made to place the child in a timely manner and to complete whatever steps are necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.
- (5) The identified outcomes and goals of the permanency plan may change over time based upon the circumstances of the particular case.
- (6) The court shall consider the child's relationships with the child's siblings in accordance with RCW 13.34.130(6). Whenever the permanency plan for a child is adoption, the court shall encourage the prospective adoptive parents, birth parents, foster parents, kinship caregivers, and the department or other agency to seriously consider the long-term benefits to the child adoptee and his or her siblings of providing for and facilitating continuing postadoption contact between the siblings. To the extent that it is feasible, and

p. 5 SB 5955

when it is in the best interests of the child adoptee and his or her 1 siblings, contact between the siblings should be frequent and of a 2 similar nature as that which existed prior to the adoption. If the 3 child adoptee or his or her siblings are represented by an attorney 4 or quardian ad litem in a proceeding under this chapter or in any 5 6 other child custody proceeding, the court shall inquire of each 7 attorney and quardian ad litem regarding the potential benefits of continuing contact between the siblings and the potential detriments 8 of severing contact. This section does not require the department or 9 other agency to agree to any specific provisions in an open adoption 10 11 agreement and does not create a new obligation for the department to 12 provide supervision or transportation for visits between siblings separated by adoption from foster care. 13

(7) For purposes related to permanency planning:

14

1516

17

18

19

25

2627

28

2930

31

32

33

3435

36

3738

39

- (a) "Guardianship" means a dependency guardianship or a legal guardianship pursuant to chapter $((\frac{11.88}{0}))$ 13.36 RCW or equivalent laws of another state or a federally recognized Indian tribe.
- (b) "Permanent custody order" means a custody order entered pursuant to chapter 26.10 RCW.
- 20 (c) "Permanent legal custody" means legal custody pursuant to 21 chapter 26.10 RCW or equivalent laws of another state or a federally 22 recognized Indian tribe.
- 23 **Sec. 2.** RCW 13.34.270 and 2004 c 183 s 2 are each amended to 24 read as follows:
 - (1) Whenever the department of social and health services places a child with a developmental disability in out-of-home care pursuant to RCW 74.13.350, the department shall obtain a judicial determination within one hundred eighty days of the placement that continued placement is in the best interests of the child. If the child's out-of-home placement ends before one hundred eighty days have elapsed, no judicial determination is required.
 - (2) To obtain the judicial determination, the department shall file a petition alleging that there is located or residing within the county a child who has a developmental disability and that the child has been placed in out-of-home care pursuant to RCW 74.13.350. The petition shall request that the court review the child's placement, make a determination whether continued placement is in the best interests of the child, and take other necessary action as provided in this section. The petition shall contain the name, date of birth,

p. 6 SB 5955

and residence of the child and the names and residences of the child's parent or legal guardian who has agreed to the child's placement in out-of-home care. Reasonable attempts shall be made by the department to ascertain and set forth in the petition the identity, location, and custodial status of any parent who is not a party to the placement agreement and why that parent cannot assume custody of the child.

- (3) Upon filing of the petition, the clerk of the court shall schedule the petition for a hearing to be held no later than fourteen calendar days after the petition has been filed. The department shall provide notification of the time, date, and purpose of the hearing to the parent or legal guardian who has agreed to the child's placement in out-of-home care. The department shall also make reasonable attempts to notify any parent who is not a party to the placement agreement, if the parent's identity and location is known. Notification under this section may be given by the most expedient means, including but not limited to, mail, personal service, and telephone.
- (4) The court shall appoint a guardian ad litem for the child as provided in RCW 13.34.100, unless the court for good cause finds the appointment unnecessary.
- (5) Permanency planning hearings shall be held as provided in this section. At the hearing, the court shall review whether the child's best interests are served by continued out-of-home placement and determine the future legal status of the child.
- (a) For children age ten and under, a permanency planning hearing shall be held in all cases where the child has remained in out-of-home care for at least nine months and an adoption decree or guardianship order under chapter 11.88 RCW has not previously been entered. The hearing shall take place no later than twelve months following commencement of the child's current placement episode.
- (b) For children over age ten, a permanency planning hearing shall be held in all cases where the child has remained in out-of-home care for at least fifteen months and an adoption decree or guardianship order under chapter 11.88 RCW has not previously been entered. The hearing shall take place no later than eighteen months following commencement of the current placement episode.
- (c) No later than ten working days before the permanency planning hearing, the department shall submit a written permanency plan to the court and shall mail a copy of the plan to all parties. The plan

p. 7 SB 5955

shall be directed toward securing a safe, stable, and permanent home for the child as soon as possible. The plan shall identify one of the following outcomes as the primary goal and may also identify additional outcomes as alternative goals: Return of the child to the home of the child's parent or legal guardian; adoption; guardianship; or long-term out-of-home care, until the child is age eighteen, with written agreement between the parties and the child's provider.

- (d) If a goal of long-term out-of-home care has been achieved before the permanency planning hearing, the court shall review the child's status to determine whether the placement and the plan for the child's care remains appropriate. In cases where the primary permanency planning goal has not been achieved, the court shall inquire regarding the reasons why the primary goal has not been achieved and determine what needs to be done to make it possible to achieve the primary goal.
- (e) Following the first permanency planning hearing, the court shall hold a further permanency planning hearing in accordance with this section at least once every twelve months until a permanency planning goal is achieved or the voluntary placement agreement is terminated.
- (6) Any party to the voluntary placement agreement may terminate the agreement at any time. Upon termination of the agreement, the child shall be returned to the care of the child's parent or legal guardian, unless the child has been taken into custody pursuant to RCW 13.34.050 or 26.44.050, placed in shelter care pursuant to RCW 13.34.130. The department shall notify the court upon termination of the voluntary placement agreement and return of the child to the care of the child's parent or legal guardian. Whenever a voluntary placement agreement is terminated, an action under this section shall be dismissed.
- (7) When state or federal funds are expended for the care and maintenance of a child with a developmental disability, placed in care as a result of an action under this chapter, the department shall refer the case to the division of child support, unless the department finds that there is good cause not to pursue collection of child support against the parent or parents of the child.
- (8) This section does not prevent the department of children, youth, and families from filing a dependency petition if there is

p. 8 SB 5955

- reason to believe that the child is a dependent child as defined in RCW 13.34.030. An action filed under this section shall be dismissed upon the filing of a dependency petition regarding a child who is the subject of the action under this section.
- 5 (9) For purposes of this section, unless the context clearly
 6 requires otherwise, "department" means the department of social and
 7 health services.
- **Sec. 3.** RCW 13.36.030 and 2010 c 272 s 3 are each amended to 9 read as follows:

- (1) Any party to a dependency proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW may request a guardianship be established for a dependent child by filing a petition in juvenile court under this chapter. All parties to the dependency and the proposed guardian must receive adequate notice of all proceedings under this chapter. Service of the notice and summons may be made under direction of the court by any person eighteen years of age or older who is not a party to the proceedings or by any law enforcement officer, probation counselor, or department employee. For purposes of this chapter, a dependent child age twelve years or older is a party to the proceedings. A proposed guardian has the right to intervene in proceedings under this chapter.
- (2) To be designated as a proposed guardian in a petition under this chapter, a person must be age twenty-one or over and must meet the minimum requirements to care for children as established by the department under RCW 74.15.030, including but not limited to licensed foster parents, relatives, and suitable persons.
- (3) Every petition filed in proceedings under this chapter shall contain: (a) A statement alleging whether the child is or may be an Indian child as defined in 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903. If the child is an Indian child as defined under the Indian child welfare act, the provisions of that act shall apply; (b) a statement alleging whether the federal servicemembers civil relief act of 2003, 50 U.S.C. Sec. 501 et seq. applies to the proceeding; and (c) a statement alleging whether the Washington service members' civil relief act, chapter 38.42 RCW, applies to the proceeding.
- (4) Every order or decree entered in any proceeding under this chapter shall contain: (a) A finding that the Indian child welfare act does or does not apply. Where there is a finding that the Indian child welfare act does apply, the decree or order must also contain a finding that all notice requirements and evidentiary requirements

p. 9 SB 5955

- 1 under the Indian child welfare act have been satisfied; (b) a finding
- 2 that the federal servicemembers civil relief act of 2003 does or does
- 3 not apply; and (c) a finding that the Washington service members'
- 4 civil relief act, chapter 38.42 RCW, does or does not apply.

Sec. 4. RCW 18.19.020 and 2011 c 86 s 1 are each amended to read 6 as follows:

The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- 9 (1) "Agency" means (a) an agency or facility operated, licensed, 10 or certified by the state of Washington; (b) a federally recognized 11 Indian tribe located within the state; or (c) a county.
 - (2) "Agency affiliated counselor" means a person registered under this chapter who is engaged in counseling and employed by an agency. "Agency affiliated counselor" includes juvenile probation counselors who are employees of the juvenile court under RCW 13.04.035 and 13.04.040 and juvenile court employees providing functional family therapy, aggression replacement training, or other evidence-based programs approved by ((the juvenile rehabilitation administration of)) the department of ((social and health services)) children, youth, and families.
 - (3) "Certified adviser" means a person certified under this chapter who is engaged in private practice counseling to the extent authorized in RCW 18.19.200.
 - (4) "Certified counselor" means a person certified under this chapter who is engaged in private practice counseling to the extent authorized in RCW 18.19.200.
 - (5) "Client" means an individual who receives or participates in counseling or group counseling.
 - (6) "Counseling" means employing any therapeutic techniques, including but not limited to social work, mental health counseling, marriage and family therapy, and hypnotherapy, for a fee that offer, assist or attempt to assist an individual or individuals in the amelioration or adjustment of mental, emotional, or behavioral problems, and includes therapeutic techniques to achieve sensitivity and awareness of self and others and the development of human potential. For the purposes of this chapter, nothing may be construed to imply that the practice of hypnotherapy is necessarily limited to counseling.

p. 10 SB 5955

- 1 (7) "Counselor" means an individual, practitioner, therapist, or 2 analyst who engages in the practice of counseling to the public for a 3 fee, including for the purposes of this chapter, hypnotherapists.
 - (8) "Department" means the department of health.

7

8

9

20

21

2223

24

25

2829

30

31

32

3334

35

3637

38

- 5 (9) "Hypnotherapist" means a person registered under this chapter 6 who is practicing hypnosis as a modality.
 - (10) "Private practice counseling" means the practice of counseling by a certified counselor or certified adviser as specified in RCW 18.19.200.
- 10 (11) "Psychotherapy" means the practice of counseling using diagnosis of mental disorders according to the fourth edition of the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, published in 1994, and the development of treatment plans for counseling based on diagnosis of mental disorders in accordance with established practice standards.
- 16 (12) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department or the secretary's designee.
- 18 **Sec. 5.** RCW 26.26A.260 and 2018 c 6 s 313 are each amended to 19 read as follows:

The state registrar of vital statistics may release information relating to an acknowledgment of parentage or denial of parentage to a signatory of the acknowledgment or denial, a court, <u>a</u> federal agency, <u>an agency operating a child welfare program under Title IV-E of the social security act, and <u>a</u> child support agency of this or another state.</u>

26 **Sec. 6.** RCW 26.50.150 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 334 are each 27 amended to read as follows:

Any program that provides domestic violence treatment to perpetrators of domestic violence must be certified by the department of ((children, youth, and families)) social and health services and meet minimum standards for domestic violence treatment purposes. The department of ((children, youth, and families)) social and health services shall adopt rules for standards of approval of domestic violence perpetrator programs. The treatment must meet the following minimum qualifications:

(1) All treatment must be based upon a full, complete clinical intake including but not limited to: Current and past violence history; a lethality risk assessment; history of treatment from past

p. 11 SB 5955

domestic violence perpetrator treatment programs; a complete diagnostic evaluation; a substance abuse assessment; criminal history; assessment of cultural issues, learning disabilities, literacy, and special language needs; and a treatment plan that adequately and appropriately addresses the treatment needs of the individual.

- (2) To facilitate communication necessary for periodic safety checks and case monitoring, the program must require the perpetrator to sign the following releases:
- (a) A release for the program to inform the victim and victim's community and legal advocates that the perpetrator is in treatment with the program, and to provide information, for safety purposes, to the victim and victim's community and legal advocates;
- (b) A release to prior and current treatment agencies to provide information on the perpetrator to the program; and
- (c) A release for the program to provide information on the perpetrator to relevant legal entities including: Lawyers, courts, parole, probation, child protective services, and child welfare services.
- (3) Treatment must be for a minimum treatment period defined by the secretary of the department of ((children, youth, and families)) social and health services by rule. The weekly treatment sessions must be in a group unless there is a documented, clinical reason for another modality. Any other therapies, such as individual, marital, or family therapy, substance abuse evaluations or therapy, medication reviews, or psychiatric interviews, may be concomitant with the weekly group treatment sessions described in this section but not a substitute for it.
- (4) The treatment must focus primarily on ending the violence, holding the perpetrator accountable for his or her violence, and changing his or her behavior. The treatment must be based on nonvictim-blaming strategies and philosophies and shall include education about the individual, family, and cultural dynamics of domestic violence. If the perpetrator or the victim has a minor child, treatment must specifically include education regarding the effects of domestic violence on children, such as the emotional impacts of domestic violence on children and the long-term consequences that exposure to incidents of domestic violence may have on children.

p. 12 SB 5955

(5) Satisfactory completion of treatment must be contingent upon the perpetrator meeting specific criteria, defined by rule by the secretary of the department of ((children, youth, and families)) social and health services, and not just upon the end of a certain period of time or a certain number of sessions.

- (6) The program must have policies and procedures for dealing with reoffenses and noncompliance.
- (7) All evaluation and treatment services must be provided by, or under the supervision of, qualified personnel.
- (8) The secretary of the department of ((children, youth, and families)) social and health services may adopt rules and establish fees as necessary to implement this section.
- and health services may conduct on-site monitoring visits as part of its plan for certifying domestic violence perpetrator programs and monitoring implementation of the rules adopted by the secretary of the department of ((ehildren, youth, and families)) social and health services to determine compliance with the minimum qualifications for domestic violence perpetrator programs. The applicant or certified domestic violence perpetrator program shall cooperate fully with the department of ((ehildren, youth, and families)) social and health services in the monitoring visit and provide all program and management records requested by the department of ((children, youth, and families)) social and health services to determine the program's compliance with the minimum certification qualifications and rules adopted by the department of ((children, youth, and families)) social and health services.
- **Sec. 7.** RCW 41.04.674 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 20 s 12 are each 29 amended to read as follows:
 - (1) The foster parent shared leave pool is created to allow employees to donate leave to be used as shared leave for any employee who is a foster parent needing to care for or preparing to accept a foster child in their home. Participation in the pool shall, at all times, be voluntary on the part of the employee. The department of ((social and health services)) children, youth, and families, in consultation with the office of financial management, shall administer the foster parent shared leave pool.
- 38 (2) Employees, as defined in RCW 41.04.655, may donate leave to 39 the foster parent shared leave pool.

p. 13 SB 5955

- 1 (3) An employee, as defined in RCW 41.04.655, who is also a 2 foster parent licensed pursuant to RCW 74.15.040 may request shared 3 leave from the foster parent shared leave pool.
- 4 (4) Shared leave under this section may not be granted unless the pool has a sufficient balance to fund the requested shared leave.
- 6 (5) Shared leave paid under this section must not exceed the level of the employee's state monthly salary.
- 8 (6) Any leave donated must be removed from the personally accumulated leave balance of the employee donating the leave.
 - (7) An employee who receives shared leave from the pool is not required to recontribute such leave to the pool, except as otherwise provided in this section.
- 13 (8) Leave that may be donated or received by any one employee shall be calculated as in RCW 41.04.665.
 - (9) As used in this section, "monthly salary" includes monthly salary and special pay and shift differential, or the monthly equivalent for hourly employees. "Monthly salary" does not include:
 - (a) Overtime pay;
 - (b) Call back pay;
- 20 (c) Standby pay; or

12

1516

17

18

19

- 21 (d) Performance bonuses.
- (10) The office of financial management, in consultation with the department of ((social and health services)) children, youth, and families, shall adopt rules and policies governing the donation and use of shared leave from the foster parent shared leave pool, including definitions of pay and allowances and guidelines for agencies to use in recordkeeping concerning shared leave.
- 28 (11) Agencies must investigate any alleged abuse of the foster 29 parent shared leave pool and on a finding of wrongdoing, the employee 30 may be required to repay all of the shared leave received from the 31 foster parent shared leave pool.
- 32 (12) Higher education institutions shall adopt policies 33 consistent with the needs of the employees under their respective 34 jurisdictions.
- 35 **Sec. 8.** RCW 41.37.010 and 2018 c 241 s 1 are each amended to 36 read as follows:
- The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

p. 14 SB 5955

(1) "Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all contributions standing to the credit of a member in the member's individual account, including any amount paid under RCW 41.50.165(2), together with the regular interest thereon.

- (2) "Actuarial equivalent" means a benefit of equal value when computed upon the basis of such mortality and other tables as may be adopted by the director.
- 8 (3) "Adjustment ratio" means the value of index A divided by 9 index B.
- 10 (4) "Annuity" means payments for life derived from accumulated 11 contributions of a member. All annuities shall be paid in monthly 12 installments.
 - (5)(a) "Average final compensation" means the member's average compensation earnable of the highest consecutive sixty months of service credit months prior to such member's retirement, termination, or death. Periods constituting authorized leaves of absence may not be used in the calculation of average final compensation except under RCW 41.37.290.
- 19 (b) In calculating average final compensation under (a) of this 20 subsection, the department of retirement systems shall include:
 - (i) Any compensation forgone by a member employed by a state agency or institution during the 2009-2011 fiscal biennium as a result of reduced work hours, mandatory or voluntary leave without pay, temporary reduction in pay implemented prior to December 11, 2010, or temporary layoffs if the reduced compensation is an integral part of the employer's expenditure reduction efforts, as certified by the employer; and
 - (ii) Any compensation forgone by a member employed by the state or a local government employer during the 2011-2013 fiscal biennium as a result of reduced work hours, mandatory leave without pay, temporary layoffs, or reductions to current pay if the reduced compensation is an integral part of the employer's expenditure reduction efforts, as certified by the employer. Reductions to current pay shall not include elimination of previously agreed upon future salary increases.
 - (6) "Beneficiary" means any person in receipt of a retirement allowance or other benefit provided by this chapter resulting from service rendered to an employer by another person.
 - (7)(a) "Compensation earnable" for members, means salaries or wages earned by a member during a payroll period for personal

p. 15 SB 5955

- services, including overtime payments, and shall include wages and salaries deferred under provisions established pursuant to sections 403(b), 414(h), and 457 of the United States internal revenue code, but shall exclude nonmoney maintenance compensation and lump sum or other payments for deferred annual sick leave, unused accumulated vacation, unused accumulated annual leave, or any form of severance pay.
- 8 (b) "Compensation earnable" for members also includes the 9 following actual or imputed payments, which are not paid for personal 10 services:

12

13

14 15

1617

18 19

2021

2425

26

2728

29

30

- (i) Retroactive payments to an individual by an employer on reinstatement of the employee in a position, or payments by an employer to an individual in lieu of reinstatement, which are awarded or granted as the equivalent of the salary or wage which the individual would have earned during a payroll period shall be considered compensation earnable to the extent provided in this subsection, and the individual shall receive the equivalent service credit;
- (ii) In any year in which a member serves in the legislature, the member shall have the option of having such member's compensation earnable be the greater of:
- 22 (A) The compensation earnable the member would have received had 23 such member not served in the legislature; or
 - (B) Such member's actual compensation earnable received for nonlegislative public employment and legislative service combined. Any additional contributions to the retirement system required because compensation earnable under (b)(ii)(A) of this subsection is greater than compensation earnable under (b)(ii)(B) of this subsection shall be paid by the member for both member and employer contributions;
- 31 (iii) Assault pay only as authorized by RCW 27.04.100, 72.01.045, 32 and 72.09.240;
- (iv) Compensation that a member would have received but for a disability occurring in the line of duty only as authorized by RCW 41.37.060;
- 36 (v) Compensation that a member receives due to participation in 37 the leave sharing program only as authorized by RCW 41.04.650 through 38 41.04.670; and
- (vi) Compensation that a member receives for being in standby status. For the purposes of this section, a member is in standby

p. 16 SB 5955

status when not being paid for time actually worked and the employer 1 requires the member to be prepared to report immediately for work, if the need arises, although the need may not arise.

- (8) "Department" means the department of retirement systems created in chapter 41.50 RCW.
 - (9) "Director" means the director of the department.

2

3

4

5 6

7

8

9

10

11 12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20 21

22

23

24 25

26

27

28 29

30 31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38 39

40

- (10) "Eligible position" means any permanent, full-time position included in subsection (19) of this section.
- (11) "Employee" or "employed" means a person who is providing services for compensation to an employer, unless the person is free from the employer's direction and control over the performance of work. The department shall adopt rules and interpret this subsection consistent with common law.
- "Employer" means the Washington state department (12)corrections, the Washington state parks and recreation commission, the Washington state gambling commission, the Washington state patrol, the Washington state department of natural resources, the Washington state liquor and cannabis board, the Washington state department of veterans affairs, the Washington state department of children, youth, and families, and the Washington state department of social and health services; any county corrections department; any city corrections department not covered under chapter 41.28 RCW; and any public corrections entity created under RCW 39.34.030 by counties, cities not covered under chapter 41.28 RCW, or both. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter, "employer" does not include a government contractor. For purposes of this subsection, a "government contractor" is any entity, including a partnership, limited liability company, for-profit or nonprofit corporation, or person, that provides services pursuant to a contract with an employer. The determination whether an employer-employee relationship has been established is not based on the relationship between a government contractor and an employer, but is based solely on the relationship between a government contractor's employee and an employer under this chapter.
- (13) "Final compensation" means the annual rate of compensation earnable by a member at the time of termination of employment.
- (14) "Index" means, for any calendar year, that year's annual average consumer price index, Seattle, Washington area, for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items, compiled by the bureau of labor statistics, United States department of labor.

p. 17 SB 5955

- 1 (15) "Index A" means the index for the year prior to the determination of a postretirement adjustment.
 - (16) "Index B" means the index for the year prior to index A.
 - (17) "Ineligible position" means any position which does not conform with the requirements set forth in subsection (10) of this section.
 - (18) "Leave of absence" means the period of time a member is authorized by the employer to be absent from service without being separated from membership.
 - (19) "Member" means any employee employed by an employer on a full-time basis:
 - (a) Who is in a position that requires completion of a certified criminal justice training course and is authorized by their employer to arrest, conduct criminal investigations, enforce the criminal laws of the state of Washington, and carry a firearm as part of the job;
 - (b) Whose primary responsibility is to ensure the custody and security of incarcerated or probationary individuals as a corrections officer, probation officer, or jailer;
 - (c) Who is a limited authority Washington peace officer, as defined in RCW 10.93.020, for an employer;
 - (d) Whose primary responsibility is to provide nursing care to, or to ensure the custody and safety of, offender, adult probationary, or patient populations; and who is in a position that requires completion of defensive tactics training or de-escalation training; and who is employed by one of the following state institutions or centers operated by the department of social and health services or the department of children, youth, and families:
 - (i) Juvenile rehabilitation administration institutions, not including community facilities;
 - (ii) Mental health hospitals;

- (iii) Child study and treatment centers; or
- (iv) Institutions or residential sites that serve developmentally disabled patients or offenders, except for state-operated living alternatives facilities;
 - (e) Whose primary responsibility is to provide nursing care to offender and patient populations in institutions and centers operated by the following employers: A city or county corrections department as set forth in subsection (12) of this section, a public corrections entity as set forth in subsection (12) of this section, the

p. 18 SB 5955

Washington state department of corrections, or the Washington state department of veterans affairs; or

1

2

5

- 3 (f) Whose primary responsibility is to supervise members eligible under this subsection.
 - (20) "Membership service" means all service rendered as a member.
- 6 (21) "Pension" means payments for life derived from contributions 7 made by the employer. All pensions shall be paid in monthly 8 installments.
- 9 (22) "Plan" means the Washington public safety employees' 10 retirement system plan 2.
- 11 (23) "Regular interest" means such rate as the director may 12 determine.
- 13 (24) "Retiree" means any person who has begun accruing a 14 retirement allowance or other benefit provided by this chapter 15 resulting from service rendered to an employer while a member.
- 16 (25) "Retirement" means withdrawal from active service with a 17 retirement allowance as provided by this chapter.
- 18 (26) "Retirement allowance" means monthly payments to a retiree 19 or beneficiary as provided in this chapter.
- 20 (27) "Retirement system" means the Washington public safety 21 employees' retirement system provided for in this chapter.
- 22 (28) "Separation from service" occurs when a person has 23 terminated all employment with an employer.
- (29) "Service" means periods of employment by a member on or 24 25 after July 1, 2006, for one or more employers for which compensation 26 earnable is paid. Compensation earnable earned for ninety or more hours in any calendar month shall constitute one service credit 27 month. Compensation earnable earned for at least seventy hours but 28 less than ninety hours in any calendar month shall constitute one-29 half service credit month of service. Compensation earnable earned 30 31 for less than seventy hours in any calendar month shall constitute 32 one-quarter service credit month of service. Time spent in standby status, whether compensated or not, is not service. 33
- Any fraction of a year of service shall be taken into account in the computation of such retirement allowance or benefits.
- 36 (a) Service in any state elective position shall be deemed to be 37 full-time service.
- 38 (b) A member shall receive a total of not more than twelve 39 service credit months of service for such calendar year. If an 40 individual is employed in an eligible position by one or more

p. 19 SB 5955

- employers the individual shall receive no more than one service credit month during any calendar month in which multiple service for ninety or more hours is rendered.
 - (30) "Service credit month" means a month or an accumulation of months of service credit which is equal to one.
- 6 (31) "Service credit year" means an accumulation of months of service credit which is equal to one when divided by twelve.
- 8 (32) "State actuary" or "actuary" means the person appointed 9 pursuant to RCW 44.44.010(2).
- 10 (33) "State elective position" means any position held by any 11 person elected or appointed to statewide office or elected or 12 appointed as a member of the legislature.
- 13 (34) "State treasurer" means the treasurer of the state of 14 Washington.
- 15 **Sec. 9.** RCW 42.56.230 and 2018 c 109 s 16 are each amended to 16 read as follows:
- The following personal information is exempt from public inspection and copying under this chapter:
- 19 (1) Personal information in any files maintained for students in 20 public schools, patients or clients of public institutions or public 21 health agencies, or welfare recipients;
- 22 (2) (a) Personal information:

5

2324

25

26

2728

2930

31

32

33

34

35

36

- (i) For a child enrolled in licensed child care in any files maintained by the department of children, youth, and families;
 - (ii) For a child enrolled in a public or nonprofit program serving or pertaining to children, adolescents, or students, including but not limited to early learning or child care services, parks and recreation programs, youth development programs, and afterschool programs; $((\Theta r))$
 - (iii) For the family members or guardians of a child who is subject to the exemption under this subsection (2) if the family member or guardian has the same last name as the child or if the family member or guardian resides at the same address as the child and disclosure of the family member's or guardian's information would result in disclosure of the personal information exempted under (a) (i) and (ii) of this subsection; or
- 37 <u>(iv) For substitute caregivers who are licensed or approved to</u>
 38 <u>provide overnight care of children by the department of children,</u>
 39 youth, and families.

p. 20 SB 5955

(b) Emergency contact information under this subsection (2) may be provided to appropriate authorities and medical personnel for the purpose of treating the individual during an emergency situation;

- (3) Personal information in files maintained for employees, appointees, or elected officials of any public agency to the extent that disclosure would violate their right to privacy;
- (4) Information required of any taxpayer in connection with the assessment or collection of any tax if the disclosure of the information to other persons would: (a) Be prohibited to such persons by RCW 84.08.210, 82.32.330, 84.40.020, 84.40.340, or any ordinance authorized under RCW 35.102.145; or (b) violate the taxpayer's right to privacy or result in unfair competitive disadvantage to the taxpayer;
- (5) Credit card numbers, debit card numbers, electronic check numbers, card expiration dates, or bank or other financial information as defined in RCW 9.35.005 including social security numbers, except when disclosure is expressly required by or governed by other law;
- (6) Personal and financial information related to a small loan or any system of authorizing a small loan in RCW 31.45.093;
- (7) (a) Any record used to prove identity, age, residential address, social security number, or other personal information required to apply for a driver's license or identicard.
- (b) Information provided under RCW 46.20.111 that indicates that an applicant declined to register with the selective service system.
- (c) Any record pertaining to a vehicle license plate, driver's license, or identicard issued under RCW 46.08.066 that, alone or in combination with any other records, may reveal the identity of an individual, or reveal that an individual is or was, performing an undercover or covert law enforcement, confidential public health work, public assistance fraud, or child support investigative activity. This exemption does not prevent the release of the total number of vehicle license plates, drivers' licenses, or identicards that, under RCW 46.08.066, an agency or department has applied for, been issued, denied, returned, destroyed, lost, and reported for misuse.
- 37 (d) Any record pertaining to a vessel registration issued under 38 RCW 88.02.330 that, alone or in combination with any other records, 39 may reveal the identity of an individual, or reveal that an 40 individual is or was, performing an undercover or covert law

p. 21 SB 5955

- enforcement activity. This exemption does not prevent the release of the total number of vessel registrations that, under RCW 88.02.330, an agency or department has applied for, been issued, denied, returned, destroyed, lost, and reported for misuse;
- 5 (8) All information related to individual claims resolution 6 structured settlement agreements submitted to the board of industrial 7 insurance appeals under RCW 51.04.063, other than final orders from 8 the board of industrial insurance appeals.
- 9 Upon request by the legislature, the department of licensing 10 shall provide a report to the legislature containing all of the 11 information in subsection (7)(c) and (d) of this section that is 12 subject to public disclosure;
- 13 (9) Voluntarily submitted information contained in a database 14 that is part of or associated with enhanced 911 emergency 15 communications systems, or information contained or used in emergency 16 notification systems as provided under RCW 38.52.575 and 38.52.577; 17 and
- (10) Until the person reaches eighteen years of age, information, otherwise disclosable under chapter 29A.08 RCW, that relates to a future voter, except for the purpose of processing and delivering ballots.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. RCW 43.20A.870 (Children's services—
 Annual quality assurance report) and 1999 c 372 s 7 & 1997 c 386 s 47
 are each repealed.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. A new section is added to chapter 43.20B RCW to read as follows:
- The department is authorized to establish and to recover debts for the department of children, youth, and families under this chapter and under RCW 13.40.220 pursuant to a contract between the department of children, youth, and families and the department that is entered into in compliance with the interlocal cooperation act, chapter 39.34 RCW.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. A new section is added to chapter 43.216 RCW to read as follows:
- The department shall prepare an annual quality assurance report that must, at minimum, include: (1) Performance outcomes regarding health and safety of children in the children's services system; (2)

p. 22 SB 5955

- 1 children's length of stay in out-of-home placement from each date of
- 2 referral; (3) adherence to permanency planning timelines; and (4) the
- 3 response time on child protective services investigations
- 4 differentiated by risk level determined at intake.

8

9

10

11

12

13

1415

16

20

21

22

2324

25

2627

33

- 5 **Sec. 13.** RCW 43.43.837 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 225 are each 6 amended to read as follows:
 - (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, in order to determine the character, competence, and suitability of any applicant or service provider to have unsupervised access, the secretary of the department of social and health services and the secretary of the department of children, youth, and families may require a fingerprint-based background check through both the Washington state patrol and the federal bureau of investigation at any time, but shall require a fingerprint-based background check when the applicant or service provider has resided in the state less than three consecutive years before application, and:
- 17 (a) Is an applicant or service provider providing services to 18 children or people with developmental disabilities under RCW 19 74.15.030;
 - (b) Is an individual ((residing)) sixteen years of age or older who: (i) Is not under the placement and care authority of the department of children, youth, and families; and (ii) resides in an applicant or service provider's home, facility, entity, agency, or business or who is authorized by ((the department of social and health services or)) the department of children, youth, and families to provide services to children ((or people with developmental disabilities)) under RCW 74.15.030; ((or))
- (c) <u>Is an individual who is authorized by the department of</u>
 social and health services to provide services to people with
 developmental disabilities under RCW 74.15.030; or
- 31 <u>(d)</u> Is an applicant or service provider providing in-home 32 services funded by:
 - (i) Medicaid personal care under RCW 74.09.520;
- 34 (ii) Community options program entry system waiver services under 35 RCW 74.39A.030;
- 36 (iii) Chore services under RCW 74.39A.110; or
- (iv) Other home and community long-term care programs, established pursuant to chapters 74.39 and 74.39A RCW, administered by the department of social and health services.

p. 23 SB 5955

(2) Long-term care workers, as defined in RCW 74.39A.009, who are hired after January 7, 2012, are subject to background checks under RCW 74.39A.056.

- (3) To satisfy the shared background check requirements provided for in RCW 43.216.270 and 43.20A.710, the department of children, youth, and families and the department of social and health services shall share federal fingerprint-based background check results as permitted under the law. The purpose of this provision is to allow both departments to fulfill their joint background check responsibility of checking any individual who may have unsupervised access to vulnerable adults, children, or juveniles. Neither department may share the federal background check results with any other state agency or person.
- (4) The secretary of the department of children, youth, and families shall require a fingerprint-based background check through the Washington state patrol identification and criminal history section and the federal bureau of investigation when the department seeks to approve an applicant or service provider for a foster or adoptive placement of children in accordance with federal and state law. Fees charged by the Washington state patrol and the federal bureau of investigation for fingerprint-based background checks shall be paid by the department of children, youth, and families for applicant and service providers providing foster care as required in RCW 74.15.030.
- (5) Any secure facility operated by the department of social and health services or the department of children, youth, and families under chapter 71.09 RCW shall require applicants and service providers to undergo a fingerprint-based background check through the Washington state patrol identification and criminal history section and the federal bureau of investigation.
- (6) Service providers and service provider applicants who are required to complete a fingerprint-based background check may be hired for a one hundred twenty-day provisional period as allowed under law or program rules when:
 - (a) A fingerprint-based background check is pending; and
- 36 (b) The applicant or service provider is not disqualified based 37 on the immediate result of the background check.
 - (7) Fees charged by the Washington state patrol and the federal bureau of investigation for fingerprint-based background checks shall

p. 24 SB 5955

- be paid by the applicable department for applicants or service
 providers providing:
- 3 (a) Services to people with a developmental disability under RCW 74.15.030;
- 5 (b) In-home services funded by medicaid personal care under RCW 6 74.09.520;
- 7 (c) Community options program entry system waiver services under 8 RCW 74.39A.030;
 - (d) Chore services under RCW 74.39A.110;

16

17

18

19

20

2122

23

2425

26

2728

29

32

33

34

3536

37

38

- 10 (e) Services under other home and community long-term care 11 programs, established pursuant to chapters 74.39 and 74.39A RCW, 12 administered by the department of social and health services or the 13 department of children, youth, and families; and
- 14 (f) Services in, or to residents of, a secure facility under RCW 15 71.09.115.
 - (8) Service providers licensed under RCW 74.15.030 must pay fees charged by the Washington state patrol and the federal bureau of investigation for conducting fingerprint-based background checks.
 - (9) Department of children, youth, and families service providers licensed under RCW 74.15.030 may not pass on the cost of the background check fees to their applicants unless the individual is determined to be disqualified due to the background information.
 - (10) The department of social and health services and the department of children, youth, and families shall develop rules identifying the financial responsibility of service providers, applicants, and the department for paying the fees charged by law enforcement to roll, print, or scan fingerprints-based for the purpose of a Washington state patrol or federal bureau of investigation fingerprint-based background check.
- 30 (11) For purposes of this section, unless the context plainly 31 indicates otherwise:
 - (a) "Applicant" means a current or prospective department of social and health services, department of children, youth, and families, or service provider employee, volunteer, student, intern, researcher, contractor, or any other individual who will or may have unsupervised access because of the nature of the work or services he or she provides. "Applicant" includes but is not limited to any individual who will or may have unsupervised access and is:

p. 25 SB 5955

1 (i) Applying for a license or certification from the department 2 of social and health services or the department of children, youth, 3 and families;

4

5

9

10

1112

13

14

1516

17

1819

20

2122

23

2425

26

27

28

33

34

35

36

37

3839

40

- (ii) Seeking a contract with the department of social and health services, the department of children, youth, and families, or a service provider;
- 7 (iii) Applying for employment, promotion, reallocation, or 8 transfer;
 - (iv) An individual that a department of social and health services or ((the)) department of children, youth, and families client or guardian of a department of social and health services or department of children, youth, and families client chooses to hire or engage to provide services to himself or herself or another vulnerable adult, juvenile, or child and who might be eligible to receive payment from the department of social and health services or the department of children, youth, and families for services rendered; or
 - (v) A department of social and health services or department of children, youth, and families applicant who will or may work in a department-covered position.
 - (b) "Authorized" means the department of social and health services or the department of children, youth, and families grants an applicant, home, or facility permission to:
 - (i) Conduct licensing, certification, or contracting activities;
 - (ii) Have unsupervised access to vulnerable adults, juveniles, and children;
 - (iii) Receive payments from a department of social and health services or department of children, youth, and families program; or
- 29 (iv) Work or serve in a department of social and health services 30 or department of children, youth, and families-covered position.
- 31 (c) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of social 32 and health services.
 - (d) "Secure facility" has the meaning provided in RCW 71.09.020.
 - (e) "Service provider" means entities, facilities, agencies, businesses, or individuals who are licensed, certified, authorized, or regulated by, receive payment from, or have contracts or agreements with the department of social and health services or the department of children, youth, and families to provide services to vulnerable adults, juveniles, or children. "Service provider" includes individuals whom a department of social and health services

p. 26 SB 5955

- 1 or department of children, youth, and families client or guardian of a department of social and health services or department of children, 2 youth, and families client may choose to hire or engage to provide 3 services to himself or herself or another vulnerable adult, juvenile, 4 or child and who might be eligible to receive payment from the 5 6 department of social and health services or the department of 7 children, youth, and families for services rendered. "Service provider" does not include those certified under chapter 70.96A RCW. 8
- 9 **Sec. 14.** RCW 43.216.390 and 2011 c 295 s 6 are each amended to 10 read as follows:
- Upon resignation or termination with or without cause of any individual working in a child care agency, the child care agency shall report to the department within twenty-four hours if it has knowledge of the following with respect to the individual:
- 15 (1) Any charge or conviction for a crime listed in WAC $((\frac{170-06-0120}{0.000}))$ $\frac{110-06-0120}{0.000}$;

19

24

25

26

27

2829

30

31

32

33

34

35

3637

38

- (2) Any other charge or conviction for a crime that could be reasonably related to the individual's suitability to provide care for or have unsupervised access to children or care; or
- 20 (3) Any negative action as defined in RCW ((43.215.010)) 21 43.216.010.
- 22 **Sec. 15.** RCW 68.50.105 and 2013 c 295 s 1 are each amended to 23 read as follows:
 - (1) Reports and records of autopsies or postmortems shall be confidential, except that the following persons may examine and obtain copies of any such report or record: The personal representative of the decedent as defined in RCW 11.02.005, any family member, the attending physician or advanced registered nurse practitioner, the prosecuting attorney or law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction, public health officials, the department of labor and industries in cases in which it has an interest under RCW 68.50.103, or the secretary of the department of ((social and health services)) children, youth, and families or his or her designee in cases being reviewed under RCW 74.13.640.
 - (2) (a) Notwithstanding the restrictions contained in this section regarding the dissemination of records and reports of autopsies or postmortems, nor the exemptions referenced under RCW 42.56.240(1), nothing in this chapter prohibits a coroner, medical examiner, or his

p. 27 SB 5955

or her designee, from publicly discussing his or her findings as to any death subject to the jurisdiction of his or her office where actions of a law enforcement officer or corrections officer have been determined to be a proximate cause of the death, except as provided in (b) of this subsection.

- (b) A coroner, medical examiner, or his or her designee may not publicly discuss his or her findings outside of formal court or inquest proceedings if there is a pending or active criminal investigation, or a criminal or civil action, concerning a death that has commenced prior to January 1, 2014.
- (3) The coroner, the medical examiner, or the attending physician shall, upon request, meet with the family of the decedent to discuss the findings of the autopsy or postmortem. For the purposes of this section, the term "family" means the surviving spouse, state registered domestic partner, or any child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, or sister of the decedent, or any person who was guardian of the decedent at the time of death.
- **Sec. 16.** RCW 74.04.790 and 2006 c 95 s 2 are each amended to 19 read as follows:
 - (1) For purposes of this section only, "assault" means an unauthorized touching of a child protective, child welfare, or adult protective services worker employed by the department of children, youth, and families or the department of social and health services resulting in physical injury to the employee.
 - (2) In recognition of the hazardous nature of employment in child protective, child welfare, and adult protective services, the legislature hereby provides a supplementary program to reimburse employees of the department, for some of their costs attributable to their being the victims of assault while in the course of discharging their assigned duties. This program shall be limited to the reimbursement provided in this section.
 - (3) An employee is only entitled to receive the reimbursement provided in this section if the secretary of children, youth, and families, or the secretary's designee, or the secretary of social and health services, or the secretary's designee, finds that each of the following has occurred:
- 37 (a) A person has assaulted the employee while the employee was in 38 the course of performing his or her official duties and, as a result

p. 28 SB 5955

thereof, the employee has sustained demonstrated physical injuries which have required the employee to miss days of work;

1

3

4

5

1314

1516

17

18

19

20

2425

26

27

28

3536

3738

39

- (b) The assault cannot be attributable to any extent to the employee's negligence, misconduct, or failure to comply with any rules or conditions of employment; and
- 6 (c) The department of labor and industries has approved the 7 employee's workers' compensation application pursuant to chapter 8 51.32 RCW.
- 9 (4) The reimbursement authorized under this section shall be as 10 follows:
- 11 (a) The employee's accumulated sick leave days shall not be 12 reduced for the workdays missed;
 - (b) For each workday missed for which the employee is not eligible to receive compensation under chapter 51.32 RCW, the employee shall receive full pay; and
 - (c) In respect to workdays missed for which the employee will receive or has received compensation under chapter 51.32 RCW, the employee shall be reimbursed in an amount which, when added to that compensation, will result in the employee receiving full pay for the workdays missed.
- 21 (5) Reimbursement under this section may not last longer than 22 three hundred sixty-five consecutive days after the date of the 23 injury.
 - (6) The employee shall not be entitled to the reimbursement provided in subsection (4) of this section for any workday for which the secretary, or the secretary's designee, finds that the employee has not diligently pursued his or her compensation remedies under chapter 51.32 RCW.
- 29 (7) The reimbursement shall only be made for absences which the 30 secretary, or the secretary's designee, believes are justified.
- 31 (8) While the employee is receiving reimbursement under this 32 section, he or she shall continue to be classified as a state 33 employee and the reimbursement amount shall be considered as salary 34 or wages.
 - (9) All reimbursement payments required to be made to employees under this section shall be made by the department. The payments shall be considered as a salary or wage expense and shall be paid by the department in the same manner and from the same appropriations as other salary and wage expenses of the department.

p. 29 SB 5955

- 1 (10) Should the legislature revoke the reimbursement authorized 2 under this section or repeal this section, no affected employee is 3 entitled thereafter to receive the reimbursement as a matter of 4 contractual right.
- 5 **Sec. 17.** RCW 74.13.110 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 20 s 14 are each amended to read as follows:
- 7 (1) The ((child welfare system)) department of children, youth, and families contracted services performance improvement account is 8 created in the state treasury. Moneys in the account may be spent 9 10 only after appropriation. Moneys in the account may be expended solely ((for the following: (a) Foster home licensing; (b))) to 11 improve contracted services provided to clients under the agency's 12 program areas, including child welfare, early learning, family 13 support, and adolescents, to support (a) achieving permanency for 14 15 children; (((c) support and assistance provided to foster parents in 16 order to improve)) (b) improving foster home retention and stability 17 of placements; $((\frac{d}{d}))$ (c) improving and increasing placement options 18 for youth in out-of-home care; ((and (e))) (d) preventing out-of-home placement; and (e) achieving additional, measurable department of 19 children, youth, and families outcome goals adopted by the 20 21 department.
- (2) Revenues to the ((child welfare system)) department of children, youth, and families contracted services performance improvement account consist of: (a) Legislative appropriations; and (b) any other public or private funds appropriated to or deposited in the account.
- 27 **Sec. 18.** RCW 74.13.350 and 2011 c 309 s 34 are each amended to 28 read as follows:

30

31

32

3334

35 36

37

38

(1) It is the intent of the legislature that parents are responsible for the care and support of children with developmental disabilities. The legislature recognizes that, because of the intense support required to care for a child with developmental disabilities, the help of an out-of-home placement may be needed. It is the intent of the legislature that, when the sole reason for the out-of-home placement is the child's developmental disability, such services be offered by the department to these children and their families through a voluntary placement agreement. In these cases, the parents shall retain legal custody of the child.

p. 30 SB 5955

1 ((As used in this section, "voluntary placement agreement" means a written agreement between the department and a child's parent or legal guardian authorizing the department to place the child in a 3 licensed facility.)) (2) Under the terms of ((this)) a voluntary 4 placement agreement, the parent or legal guardian shall retain legal 5 6 custody and the department shall be responsible for the child's 7 placement and care. The agreement shall at a minimum specify the legal status of the child and the rights and obligations of the 8 parent or legal guardian, the child, and the department while the child is in placement. The agreement must be signed by the child's 11 parent or legal guardian and the department to be in effect, except 12 that an agreement regarding an Indian child shall not be valid unless executed in accordance with RCW 13.38.150. Any party to a voluntary 13 14 placement agreement may terminate the agreement at any time. Upon termination of the agreement, the child shall be returned to the care 15 16 of the child's parent or legal guardian unless the child has been 17 taken into custody pursuant to RCW 13.34.050 or 26.44.050, placed in 18 shelter care pursuant to RCW 13.34.060, or placed in foster care 19 pursuant to RCW 13.34.130.

2

9

10

20 21

22

23

24 25

26

27 28

29

30 31

32

33

34

35 36

37

38 39

40

((As used in this section, "out-of-home placement" and "out-ofhome care" mean the placement of a child in a foster family home or group care facility licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW.))

(3) Whenever the department places a child in out-of-home care under a voluntary placement pursuant to this section, the department shall have the responsibility for the child's placement and care. The department shall develop a permanency plan of care for the child no later than sixty days from the date that the department assumes responsibility for the child's placement and care. Within the first one hundred eighty days of the placement, the department shall obtain judicial determination pursuant to RCW 13.04.030(1)(j) 13.34.270 that the placement is in the best interests of the child. If the child's out-of-home placement ends before one hundred eighty have elapsed, no judicial determination under 13.04.030(1)(b) is required. The permanency planning hearings shall review whether the child's best interests are served by continued out-of-home placement and determine the future legal status of the child.

(4) The department shall provide for periodic administrative reviews as required by federal law. A review may be called at any time by either the department, the parent, or the legal guardian.

> p. 31 SB 5955

(5) Nothing in this section shall prevent the department of children, youth, and families from filing a dependency petition if there is reason to believe that the child is a dependent child as defined in RCW 13.34.030.

- (6) The department shall adopt rules providing for the implementation of chapter 386, Laws of 1997 and the transfer of responsibility for out-of-home placements from the dependency process under chapter 13.34 RCW to the process under this chapter.
- (7) It is the intent of the legislature that the department undertake voluntary out-of-home placement in cases where the child's developmental disability is such that the parent, guardian, or legal custodian is unable to provide the necessary care for the child, and the parent, guardian, or legal custodian has determined that the child would benefit from placement outside of the home. If the department does not accept a voluntary placement agreement signed by the parent, a petition may be filed and an action pursued under chapter 13.34 RCW. The department shall inform the parent, guardian, or legal custodian in writing of their right to civil action under chapter 13.34 RCW.
- (8) Nothing in this section prohibits the department of children, youth, and families from seeking support from parents of a child, including a child with a developmental disability if the child has been placed into care as a result of an action under chapter 13.34 RCW, when state or federal funds are expended for the care and maintenance of that child or when the department receives an application for services from the physical custodian of the child, unless the department of children, youth, and families finds that there is good cause not to pursue collection of child support against the parent or parents.
 - (9) For the purposes of this section:
- 31 <u>(a) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, "department"</u> 32 means the department of social and health services.
 - (b) "Out-of-home placement" and "out-of-home care" mean the placement of a child in a foster family home or group care facility licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW.
 - (c) "Voluntary placement agreement" means a written agreement between the department of social and health services and a child's parent or legal guardian authorizing the department to place the child in a licensed facility.

p. 32 SB 5955

- NEW SECTION. Sec. 19. A new section is added to chapter 74.14B RCW to read as follows:
- The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.
- 5 (1) "Department" means the department of children, youth, and 6 families.
- 7 (2) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department of 8 children, youth, and families.
- 9 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 20.** RCW 74.14C.070 (Appropriations—Transfer of funds from foster care services to family preservation services—
 11 Annual report) and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 512, 2003 c 207 s 3, 1995 c 311 s 11, 1994 c 288 s 3, & 1992 c 214 s 9 are each repealed.
- 13 **Sec. 21.** RCW 74.15.030 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 409 are each 14 amended to read as follows:
- The secretary shall have the power and it shall be the secretary's duty:
 - (1) In consultation with the children's services advisory committee, and with the advice and assistance of persons representative of the various type agencies to be licensed, to designate categories of facilities for which separate or different requirements shall be developed as may be appropriate whether because of variations in the ages, sex and other characteristics of persons served, variations in the purposes and services offered or size or structure of the agencies to be licensed hereunder, or because of any other factor relevant thereto;
 - (2) In consultation with the children's services advisory committee, and with the advice and assistance of persons representative of the various type agencies to be licensed, to adopt and publish minimum requirements for licensing applicable to each of the various categories of agencies to be licensed.

The minimum requirements shall be limited to:

17

1819

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

2829

30

31

35

36

37

- 32 (a) The size and suitability of a facility and the plan of 33 operation for carrying out the purpose for which an applicant seeks a 34 license;
 - (b) Obtaining background information and any out-of-state equivalent, to determine whether the applicant or service provider is disqualified and to determine the character, competence, and

p. 33 SB 5955

suitability of an agency, the agency's employees, volunteers, and other persons associated with an agency;

- (c) Conducting background checks for those who will or may have unsupervised access to children or expectant mothers; however, a background check is not required if a caregiver approves an activity pursuant to the prudent parent standard contained in RCW 74.13.710;
- (d) Obtaining child protective services information or records maintained in the department case management information system. No unfounded allegation of child abuse or neglect as defined in RCW 26.44.020 may be disclosed to a child-placing agency, private adoption agency, or any other provider licensed under this chapter;
- (e) Submitting a fingerprint-based background check through the Washington state patrol under chapter 10.97 RCW and through the federal bureau of investigation for:
- (i) Agencies and their staff, volunteers, students, and interns when the agency is seeking license or relicense;
 - (ii) Foster care and adoption placements; and

- (iii) Any adult living in a home where a child may be placed;
- (f) If any adult living in the home has not resided in the state of Washington for the preceding five years, the department shall review any child abuse and neglect registries maintained by any state where the adult has resided over the preceding five years;
- (g) The cost of fingerprint background check fees will be paid as required in RCW 43.43.837;
- (h) National and state background information must be used solely for the purpose of determining eligibility for a license and for determining the character, suitability, and competence of those persons or agencies, excluding parents, not required to be licensed who are authorized to care for children or expectant mothers;
- 30 (i) The number of qualified persons required to render the type 31 of care and treatment for which an agency seeks a license;
 - (j) The safety, cleanliness, and general adequacy of the premises to provide for the comfort, care and well-being of children or expectant mothers;
 - (k) The provision of necessary care, including food, clothing, supervision and discipline; physical, mental and social well-being; and educational, recreational and spiritual opportunities for those served;

p. 34 SB 5955

(1) The financial ability of an agency to comply with minimum requirements established pursuant to this chapter and RCW 74.13.031; and

- (m) The maintenance of records pertaining to the admission, progress, health and discharge of persons served;
- (3) To investigate any person, including relatives by blood or marriage except for parents, for character, suitability, and competence in the care and treatment of children or expectant mothers prior to authorizing that person to care for children or expectant mothers. However, if a child is placed with a relative under RCW 13.34.065 or 13.34.130, and if such relative appears otherwise suitable and competent to provide care and treatment the criminal history background check required by this section need not be completed before placement, but shall be completed as soon as possible after placement;
- (4) On reports of alleged child abuse and neglect, to investigate agencies in accordance with chapter 26.44 RCW, including agencies or facilities operated by the department of social and health services that receive children for care outside their own homes, child day-care centers, and family day-care homes, to determine whether the alleged abuse or neglect has occurred, and whether child protective services or referral to a law enforcement agency is appropriate;
- (5) To issue, revoke, or deny licenses to agencies pursuant to this chapter and RCW 74.13.031. Licenses shall specify the category of care which an agency is authorized to render and the ages, sex and number of persons to be served;
- (6) To prescribe the procedures and the form and contents of reports necessary for the administration of this chapter and RCW 74.13.031 and to require regular reports from each licensee;
- (7) To inspect agencies periodically to determine whether or not there is compliance with this chapter and RCW 74.13.031 and the requirements adopted hereunder;
- (8) To review requirements adopted hereunder at least every two years and to adopt appropriate changes after consultation with affected groups for child day-care requirements and with the children's services advisory committee for requirements for other agencies; and
- 38 (9) To consult with public and private agencies in order to help 39 them improve their methods and facilities for the care of children or 40 expectant mothers.

p. 35 SB 5955

1 **Sec. 22.** RCW 13.50.100 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 313 are each 2 amended to read as follows:

3

4

5

7

8

9

10 11

12

13

14

15

1617

18

19

2021

2223

2425

26

2728

29

30 31

32

33

34

35

36

37

3839

40

- (1) This section governs records not covered by RCW 13.50.050, 13.50.260, and 13.50.270.
- (2) Records covered by this section shall be confidential and shall be released only pursuant to this section and RCW 13.50.010.
- (3) Records retained or produced by any juvenile justice or care agency may be released to other participants in the juvenile justice or care system only when an investigation or case involving the juvenile in question is being pursued by the other participant or when that other participant is assigned the responsibility of supervising the juvenile. Records covered under this section and maintained by the juvenile courts which relate to the official actions of the agency may be entered in the statewide judicial information system. However, truancy records associated with a juvenile who has no other case history, and records of a juvenile's parents who have no other case history, shall be removed from the judicial information system when the juvenile is no longer subject to the compulsory attendance laws in chapter 28A.225 RCW. A county clerk is not liable for unauthorized release of this data by persons or agencies not in his or her employ or otherwise subject to his or her control, nor is the county clerk liable for inaccurate or incomplete information collected from litigants or other persons required to provide identifying data pursuant to this section.
- (4) Subject to (a) of this subsection, the department of children, youth, and families may release information retained in the course of conducting child protective services investigations to a family or juvenile court hearing a petition for custody under chapter 26.10 RCW.
- (a) Information that may be released shall be limited to information regarding investigations in which: (i) The juvenile was an alleged victim of abandonment or abuse or neglect; or (ii) the petitioner for custody of the juvenile, or any individual aged sixteen or older residing in the petitioner's household, is the subject of a founded or currently pending child protective services investigation made by the department of social and health services or the department of children, youth, and families subsequent to October 1, 1998.
- (b) Additional information may only be released with the written consent of the subject of the investigation and the juvenile alleged

p. 36 SB 5955

to be the victim of abandonment or abuse and neglect, or the parent, custodian, guardian, or personal representative of the juvenile, or by court order obtained with notice to all interested parties.

- (5) Any disclosure of records or information by the department of social and health services or the department of children, youth, and families, pursuant to this section shall not be deemed a waiver of any confidentiality or privilege attached to the records or information by operation of any state or federal statute or regulation, and any recipient of such records or information shall maintain it in such a manner as to comply with such state and federal statutes and regulations and to protect against unauthorized disclosure.
- (6) A contracting agency or service provider of the department of social and health services or the department of children, youth, and families, that provides counseling, psychological, psychiatric, or medical services may release to the office of the family and children's ombuds information or records relating to services provided to a juvenile who is dependent under chapter 13.34 RCW without the consent of the parent or guardian of the juvenile, or of the juvenile if the juvenile is under the age of thirteen years, unless such release is otherwise specifically prohibited by law.
- (7) A juvenile, his or her parents, the juvenile's attorney, and the juvenile's parent's attorney, shall, upon request, be given access to all records and information collected or retained by a juvenile justice or care agency which pertain to the juvenile except:
- (a) If it is determined by the agency that release of this information is likely to cause severe psychological or physical harm to the juvenile or his or her parents the agency may withhold the information subject to other order of the court: PROVIDED, That if the court determines that limited release of the information is appropriate, the court may specify terms and conditions for the release of the information; or
- (b) If the information or record has been obtained by a juvenile justice or care agency in connection with the provision of counseling, psychological, psychiatric, or medical services to the juvenile, when the services have been sought voluntarily by the juvenile, and the juvenile has a legal right to receive those services without the consent of any person or agency, then the information or record may not be disclosed to the juvenile's parents

p. 37 SB 5955

without the informed consent of the juvenile unless otherwise authorized by law; or

- (c) That the department of children, youth, and families <u>or the department of social and health services</u> may delete the name and identifying information regarding persons or organizations who have reported alleged child abuse or neglect.
- (8) A juvenile or his or her parent denied access to any records following an agency determination under subsection (7) of this section may file a motion in juvenile court requesting access to the records. The court shall grant the motion unless it finds access may not be permitted according to the standards found in subsection (7) (a) and (b) of this section.
- (9) The person making a motion under subsection (8) of this section shall give reasonable notice of the motion to all parties to the original action and to any agency whose records will be affected by the motion.
- (10) Subject to the rules of discovery in civil cases, any party to a proceeding seeking a declaration of dependency or a termination of the parent-child relationship and any party's counsel and the guardian ad litem of any party, shall have access to the records of any natural or adoptive child of the parent, subject to the limitations in subsection (7) of this section. A party denied access to records may request judicial review of the denial. If the party prevails, he or she shall be awarded attorneys' fees, costs, and an amount not less than five dollars and not more than one hundred dollars for each day the records were wrongfully denied.
- 27 (11) No unfounded allegation of child abuse or neglect as defined 28 in RCW 26.44.020(1) may be disclosed to a child-placing agency, 29 private adoption agency, or any other licensed provider.

--- END ---

p. 38 SB 5955