

**E2SSB 6068** - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Appropriations

**ADOPTED 03/01/2024**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Dependency courts should work to ensure  
4 the well-being of dependent children and to ensure that every young  
5 person who leaves foster care has relational permanency - meaning  
6 they have various long-term relationships that help them feel loved  
7 and connected. This includes relationships with siblings, parents,  
8 family members, extended family, family friends, mentors, tribes, and  
9 where appropriate, former foster family members.

10 Legal permanency, achieved through reunification, guardianship,  
11 or adoption is important, but it is not the only way to provide a  
12 sense of belonging and meaningful connections for young people. The  
13 federal children's bureau has cautioned that, legal permanence alone  
14 does not guarantee secure attachments and lifelong relationships. The  
15 relational aspects of permanency are critically important and  
16 fundamental to overall well-being, administration on children, youth  
17 and families, information memorandum ACYF-CB-IM-20-09, January 5,  
18 2021. Relational permanency is one component of a child's overall  
19 well-being. Washington state's data collection should reflect the  
20 importance of both relational and legal permanency as well as child  
21 well-being.

22 **Sec. 2.** RCW 13.34.820 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 309 are each  
23 amended to read as follows:

24 (1) The administrative office of the courts, in consultation with  
25 the attorney general's office and the department, shall compile an  
26 annual report, providing information about cases that fail to meet  
27 statutory guidelines to achieve permanency for dependent children.

28 (2) The administrative office of the courts shall submit the  
29 annual report required by this section to appropriate committees of  
30 the legislature by December 1st of each year, beginning on December  
31 1, 2007. The administrative office of the courts shall also submit

1 the annual report to a representative of the foster parent  
2 association of Washington state.

3 (3) The annual report shall include information regarding whether  
4 foster parents received timely notification of dependency hearings as  
5 required by RCW 13.34.096 and 13.34.145 and whether caregivers  
6 submitted reports to the court.

7 (4) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
8 specific purpose, the administrative office of the courts shall, in  
9 consultation with others, identify measures of relational permanency  
10 and child well-being and shall report to the legislature by July 1,  
11 2025, in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the following information:

12 (a) A plan for reporting on child well-being and relational  
13 permanency;

14 (b) A plan for tracking and reporting on whether an order or  
15 portion of an order was agreed or contested, and if contested, by  
16 which party or parties;

17 (c) How to make such information publicly available;

18 (d) What can be reported using existing data;

19 (e) What additional information should be collected;

20 (f) What data-sharing agreements are necessary to ensure an  
21 accurate picture of the needs of families in the dependency system;  
22 and

23 (g) How many children in dependency have incarcerated parents.

24 (5) In making these determinations the administrative office of  
25 the courts must consult with representatives who have knowledge of  
26 data collection systems from the office of the superintendent of  
27 public instruction; the health care authority; the department of  
28 children, youth, and families; the department of social and health  
29 services; the department of corrections; tribal data experts; and any  
30 other entity holding relevant data or expertise.

31 (6) Consistent with RCW 13.50.280, to collect data necessary to  
32 evaluate the relational permanency and well-being of dependent  
33 children, the administrative office of the courts may execute data-  
34 sharing agreements with the office of the superintendent of public  
35 instruction, the health care authority, the department of children,  
36 youth, and families, the department of corrections, and the  
37 department of social and health services."

38 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Authorizes, rather than requires, the Administrative Office of the Courts to execute data-sharing agreements with specified agencies to collect data necessary to evaluate the relational permanency and well-being of dependent children.

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