

1 2471-S.E AMS WM S4515.1

2 **ESHB 2471** - S COMM AMD
3 By Committee on Ways & Means

4
5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the
8 children's investment trust act."

9 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature finds that:

10 (1) The failure of a significant number of our children to develop
11 to their full potential threatens Washington state's future
12 productivity and competitiveness;

13 (2) The failure of children to thrive and develop leads to
14 avoidable long-term costs to society in terms of illness, welfare,
15 teenage pregnancies, school drop-outs, drug and alcohol addiction,
16 child abuse, and crime;

17 (3) Investments in preventive services for children and their
18 families are highly effective in alleviating such social costs if
19 children are reached early;

20 (4) While much is spent on children through a variety of programs,
21 the focus has most often been on crisis response. While support for
22 children in crisis is essential, a more long-range view dictates a
23 focus on preventive services. Only through early intervention and
24 prevention can we stem the flow of children needing crisis help and
25 treatment. Our overloaded crisis systems will remain overloaded unless
26 we move toward prevention strategies;

1 (5) Much is spent on treatment approaches identifying a specific
2 problem and mandating a specific service in response. While
3 identifying single problems and specific interventions are important,
4 research suggests that the most effective early interventions for
5 children are those which are more comprehensive in approach, with the
6 flexibility to respond to a host of potential barriers or dysfunctions;
7 and

8 (6) Together, the lack of comprehensiveness in approach and the
9 crisis nature of current assistance create a system widely viewed as
10 fragmented, short-sighted, and ineffective. With a few exceptions, we
11 have a system designed not to help children thrive and develop, but to
12 help them survive after being hurt.

13 The legislature is aware that model programs such as the federal
14 head start program and our own early childhood education and assistance
15 program incorporate many of the positive concepts suggested herein; the
16 legislature is anxious to incorporate the positive aspects of these
17 more comprehensive models into currently existing single-service
18 programs at the community level, making them more comprehensive, more
19 culturally sensitive, and more prevention-oriented in nature.

20 Therefore, through sections 1 through 5 of this act, it is the
21 intent of the legislature to develop a dedicated trust fund supported
22 by gifts, grants, and earmarked revenue, which will: Provide start-up
23 funding for pilot programs, based on local need; compliment existing
24 community programs; help to develop comprehensive, culturally
25 sensitive, prevention-oriented programs for at-risk children and their
26 families; foster self-sufficiency among families; and encourage and
27 support local prevention initiatives that develop creative community
28 partnerships."

1 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Unless the context clearly requires

2 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout sections 4
3 through 6 of this act.

4 (1) "Comprehensive service" means a service that responds to the
5 needs of families or children, or both, as they are identified,
6 regardless of the specific service being provided when new issues
7 arise.

8 (2) "Magnet programs" are those existing programs which currently
9 attract families to human service providers, such as housing programs,
10 energy assistance, or health care. Magnet services can be leveraged
11 into a starting point to identify and respond to other needs of the
12 child and family, often by using existing resources in creating
13 partnerships.

14 (3) "Model program services" means services targeted to young
15 children, zero to eight years of age, and that: Are responsive to the
16 family unit as a whole; are comprehensive and culturally sensitive in
17 nature; generally occur before the young child is in crisis due to
18 abuse or neglect; incorporate mutually developed family goals; and
19 include coordinated efforts from other community resources. "Model
20 program services" may incorporate new and innovative community
21 partnerships into the service design, as between a school district and
22 a private nonprofit agency, or between a private nonprofit agency and
23 the sheriff's department, for example.

24 (4) "Prevention services" means program interventions that focus on
25 young children, generally zero to eight years of age, prior to those
26 children being in need of crisis intervention, and which address
27 dysfunctions related to both child and family.

28 (5) "Single service" means those programs such as energy assistance
29 or landlord-tenant counseling, as examples, that allow funds to be used
30 only for that specific service, even if, while providing that service,

1 the service provider identifies other problems in the family that need
2 attention."

3 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The purposes of chapter, Laws of
4 1992 (this act) are to:

5 (1) Respond to a widely felt need to more aggressively fund
6 prevention services to and for young at-risk children and their
7 families, specifically tailored to the unique problems existing at the
8 local community level;

9 (2) Provide a source of potential funding to leverage and improve
10 upon the integration and coordination of existing services, and to
11 develop new and innovative partnerships that focus on prevention,
12 leading toward self-sufficiency; and

13 (3) Assist existing programs to take a more comprehensive,
14 culturally sensitive service approach by providing a source of funding
15 that encourages specific local response to the wide array of problems
16 that may be impacting at-risk children and their families.

17 Overall, the legislature desires to actively support programs for
18 young at-risk children that: Focus on local responses which are
19 culturally sensitive; provide comprehensive help rather than a single
20 service; result in the development of a positive working relationship
21 between the provider and the family based on mutual responsibility;
22 empower the family to become more self-sufficient; reach young children
23 and their families before they are in major crisis; and rely on
24 existing community-based services as magnet programs that already
25 attract children and families in need."

26 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) The children's investment trust
27 account is created in the state treasury. Moneys in the account may be
28 spent only after appropriation. The account is subject to allotment

1 procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW. Moneys from the account shall be
2 used by the department of community development as follows to carry out
3 the purposes of section 4 of this act:

4 (a) Forty-eight and one-half percent for grants under the community
5 services block grant program;

6 (b) Forty-eight and one-half percent for competitive grants; and

7 (c) Three percent for administration of the fund by the department
8 of community development.

9 (2) The department of community development shall seek grant
10 proposals that incorporate model program services and carry out the
11 purposes enumerated in section 4 of this act. To facilitate continuity
12 of program, proposals should be for three years of continuous service.
13 To facilitate widespread distribution of the funds and services, no
14 grant shall exceed seven hundred fifty thousand dollars for the three-
15 year period. In addition, no competitively grant-funded agency may
16 submit a second competitive proposal until the initial program is
17 within one year of expiration. Funded programs may not be
18 automatically renewed, but may compete for ongoing funding on a three-
19 year cycle.

20 (3) Entities eligible for competitive grant funds include any
21 nonprofit institution showing the ability to extend existing services
22 into more effective prevention-oriented programs for at-risk children
23 and their families to carry out the purpose enumerated in section 4 of
24 this act.

25 (4) The department of community development shall, in order to
26 carry out the purposes enumerated in section 4 of this act, adopt rules
27 governing the development of a competitive request for proposal
28 process; fiscal accounting; annual site visits to funded programs; the
29 review and analysis of annual program reports provided by funded

1 agencies; and development of reports provided to the legislature in
2 partnership with local program providers.

3 (5) The department of community development shall designate a
4 reasonable amount of each contractor's funding under chapter ..., Laws
5 of 1992 (this act) for third party independent evaluation. Evaluation
6 design shall be incorporated into each project's application and shall
7 include both process and outcome components of each individual
8 contractor's program."

9 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. Sections 1 through 5 of this act are
10 each added to chapter 43.63A RCW."

11 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. If an appropriation for this act,
12 Substitute House Bill No. 2471, is not provided from the children's
13 investment trust account by June 30, 1995, this act shall be null and
14 void."

15 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. If any provision of this act or its
16 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
17 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
18 persons or circumstances is not affected."

19 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. This act shall take effect July 1,
20 1992."

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24 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "families;" strike the
25 remainder of the title and insert "adding new sections to chapter

1 43.63A RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date."