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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1412**

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**State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Wineberry, Padden, Jacobsen, Tate, Prentice, Paris, Locke, Belcher, O'Brien, Leonard and Anderson).

Read first time March 6, 1991.

1            AN ACT Relating to racial disproportionality in the juvenile  
2 justice system; creating new sections; making an appropriation;  
3 providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**            The legislature finds that the number of  
6 minority youth arrested, detained, and incarcerated within the juvenile  
7 justice system has significantly increased from seven percent in 1978  
8 to over thirty-five percent in 1989 and continues to rise. The number  
9 of minorities in the juvenile justice system is significantly higher  
10 than their proportion of the state's population. As a result, it is  
11 the legislature's intent to provide for a study to identify the causes  
12 of minority disproportionality within the juvenile justice system and  
13 to recommend changes, if needed, to address this growing problem.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**        The office of management services of the  
2 children, youth, and family services administration within the  
3 department of social and health services, in cooperation with the  
4 commission on African American affairs and the governor's juvenile  
5 justice advisory committee, shall contract for an independent study of  
6 racial disproportionality in the juvenile justice system.

7        (1) The study shall identify key decision points in the juvenile  
8 justice system where race and/or ethnicity-based disproportionality  
9 exists in the treatment and incarceration of juvenile offenders. The  
10 key decision points shall include, but not be limited to, arrest,  
11 detainment at the time of arrest, admission to detention, release to  
12 parent or other legal guardian, referral to prosecution and filing of  
13 charges, juvenile court sentencing, and institutional assignment if  
14 committed to the division of juvenile rehabilitation.

15        (2) The study shall also seek to identify the causes of such  
16 disproportionality, propose new policies and procedures to address  
17 disproportionality.

18        (3) The office of management services of the children, youth, and  
19 family services administration of the department of social and health  
20 services shall submit the study's findings and recommendations to the  
21 standing committees of the legislature by December 1, 1992.

22        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**        The sum of sixty-two thousand five  
23 hundred dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is  
24 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general  
25 fund to the division of children, youth, and family services of the  
26 department of social and health services for the purposes of this act.

27        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**        This act is necessary for the immediate  
28 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
2 effect July 1, 1991.