
HOUSE BILL 1420

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Leonard, Jacobsen, Winsley, Wineberry, Brekke, Ogden, R. King, Riley, Beck, H. Myers and Haugen.

Read first time January 29, 1991. Referred to Committee on Human Services\Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington family policy center; adding new
2 sections to chapter 28B.20 RCW; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that societal
5 problems such as child abuse, child neglect, family violence, drug
6 abuse, teen pregnancy, delinquency, and dropping out of school affect
7 the health, happiness, and welfare of families throughout the state of
8 Washington. The legislature also finds that, while exemplary
9 initiatives exist in the private and public sectors to address these
10 societal problems, these efforts are fragmented and insufficient given
11 the magnitude and frequency of the problems. For example,
12 professionals often work in isolation from one another and are unaware
13 of parallel efforts to serve the same group of people.

14 The legislature finds that a central point for information and
15 research on issues related to families does not exist in the state of

1 Washington. The legislature intends to establish a state-wide
2 interdisciplinary family policy center at the University of Washington.
3 The center is intended to develop and maintain a comprehensive data
4 bank and to produce strategies for dealing with the complex social
5 problems faced by children and their families. The center is also
6 intended to complement the home economics research, instruction, and
7 cooperative extension programs at Washington State University.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington family policy center is
9 established at the University of Washington's graduate school of social
10 work. The center shall carry out its functions in concert with other
11 public agencies and public graduate schools of social work in the state
12 so that special areas of expertise within these agencies and
13 institutions will be utilized. Specifically, the center shall
14 subcontract with the Eastern Washington University graduate school of
15 social work to address rural family policy issues.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The purpose of the Washington center for
17 family policy is to provide information, conduct requested policy
18 research, and promote education and training.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The duties of the center shall include,
20 but shall not be limited to:

21 (1) Collecting and analyzing data from private and public agencies
22 and from universities on issues of concern to children and families;

23 (2) Providing information for legislators, researchers, program
24 directors, and other individuals concerned with serving families. This
25 information may be collected from the fields of social work, medicine,
26 the law and law enforcement, mental health, health care, public health,
27 education, public administration, and other relevant fields;

1 (3) Identifying policies, model approaches, and other resources
2 that are effective in addressing the problems experienced by families
3 and children;

4 (4) Developing a yearly white paper on family matters and other
5 reports as requested; and

6 (5) Facilitating conferences, work groups, and study sessions for
7 policy makers, program planners, and service providers from various
8 disciplines but with common concerns.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The duties of the center may include,
10 but shall not be limited to:

11 (1) Coordinating and contracting for research on the problems
12 encountered by children and their families. The research topics may
13 include a survey of existing barriers to service delivery, examination
14 of cost-benefit concerns in service delivery, and evaluations of the
15 effectiveness of existing programs;

16 (2) Promoting educational activities, including seminars, training
17 conferences, professional exchanges, and interdisciplinary problem-
18 solving work groups; and

19 (3) Providing a referral service to education and training programs
20 that address children and family issues.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The center may collaborate with other
22 schools and departments in the university that have expertise in child
23 and family issues, including, but not limited to, public health, public
24 affairs, law, nursing, and medicine. The center shall subcontract with
25 other public graduate schools of social work that have expertise in
26 areas not readily available at the center. The center may also
27 collaborate, cooperate, and consult with other institutions of higher
28 education that possess expertise needed by the center.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The center may receive such gifts,
2 grants, and endowments as may be made from time to time in trust or
3 otherwise for the use and benefit of the mission of the center. The
4 center may enter into contracts with public and private persons or
5 organizations. The center may expend the gifts, grants, endowments, or
6 contractual funds, or any income therefrom according to the terms of
7 the gifts, grants, contracts, or endowments. For the purpose of
8 defraying all or part of the cost of the center's activities and
9 materials, the center may charge reasonable fees or other appropriate
10 charges for attendance at workshops and conferences and for
11 publications and other materials that the center is authorized to
12 prepare and distribute.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act are
14 each added to chapter 28B.20 RCW.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The sum of one million one hundred sixty
16 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
17 appropriated from the general fund to the University of Washington for
18 the biennium ending June 30, 1993, to carry out the purposes of this
19 act.