
HOUSE BILL 1608

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Leonard, Winsley, Rasmussen, Beck, Anderson, Hargrove, Brekke, Bowman, Dorn, Hine, Rust, Riley, Spanel, H. Myers, Dellwo, Phillips, Haugen, Jacobsen, Jones, R. King, Pruitt, Basich, R. Johnson, Van Luven, Holland, Valle, Paris, Belcher, Sheldon and O'Brien.

Read first time February 4, 1991. Referred to Committee on Human Services/Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to children's services; amending RCW 13.32A.040,
2 74.13.032, and 74.13.035; adding new sections to chapter 43.20A RCW;
3 creating new sections; and making appropriations.

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 group home beds for dependent children has declined dramatically since
7 1980. This decline has resulted in dependent children being placed in
8 family foster homes, crisis residential centers, interim care programs,
9 residential treatment centers, and other programs designed for
10 nondependent populations. The misuse of the out-of-home care system
11 has resulted in personal injury and property damage to family foster
12 homes, the lack of availability of services intended by the legislature
13 for runaways and families in conflict, and harm to the children whose
14 needs required group home care.

1 The legislature also finds that the current administration of
2 services to runaway youth, at-risk youth, and families in conflict is
3 inconsistent across the state and that services and programs intended
4 for this population have been used inappropriately and contrary to the
5 requirements of state law.

6 To remedy this state of affairs, the legislature declares that it
7 intends to provide a full continuum of care for children in need of
8 state assistance, including those dependents who require group home
9 care.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of social and health
11 services shall conduct an assessment of the children in its care to
12 determine the appropriate level of residential and treatment services
13 required by these children. The assessment shall be based on a
14 statistically valid sample of all children in the department's care.
15 The department shall report the results of the assessment to the
16 appropriate standing committees of the legislature by September 15,
17 1992.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Based on the assessment required under
19 section 2 of this act, the department shall reallocate funds from the
20 family foster care program to the group care program by January 13,
21 1993, to provide children in care with the appropriate level of
22 residential and treatment services.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department shall maintain separate
24 fiscal accounting procedures for family foster care and group home
25 care.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** After March 1, 1993, all children
2 requiring residential and treatment services through the department
3 shall be assessed to determine the appropriate level of services
4 required. The assessment procedure shall be the same regardless of the
5 residential and treatment services ultimately provided by the
6 department.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The department shall ensure that the
8 administration of chapter 13.32A RCW and applicable portions of chapter
9 74.13 RCW relating to runaway youth, at-risk youth, and families in
10 conflict is separate and distinct from the administration of the
11 applicable portions of Title 13 RCW and Title 74 RCW relating to
12 dependent youth.

13 **Sec. 7.** RCW 13.32A.040 and 1990 c 276 s 4 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 Families who are in conflict or who are experiencing problems with
16 at-risk youth may request family reconciliation services from the
17 department. Such services shall be provided to alleviate personal or
18 family situations which present a serious and imminent threat to the
19 health or stability of the child or family and to maintain families
20 intact wherever possible. Family reconciliation services shall be
21 designed to develop skills and supports within families to resolve
22 problems related to at-risk youth or family conflicts and may include
23 but are not limited to referral to services for suicide prevention,
24 psychiatric or other medical care, or psychological, welfare, legal,
25 educational, or other social services, as appropriate to the needs of
26 the child and the family. Family reconciliation service shall be
27 available in all communities of the state on a twenty-four hour basis.

1 **Sec. 8.** RCW 74.13.032 and 1979 c 155 s 78 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) The department shall establish, by contracts with private
4 vendors, not less than eight regional crisis residential centers, which
5 shall be structured group care facilities licensed under rules adopted
6 by the department. (~~Each regional center shall have an average of at
7 least four adult staff members and in no event less than three adult
8 staff members to every eight children.~~) The staff shall be trained so
9 that they may effectively counsel juveniles admitted to the centers,
10 provide treatment, supervision, and structure to the juveniles, and
11 carry out the responsibilities outlined in RCW 13.32A.090.

12 (2) The department shall, in addition to the regional facilities
13 established under subsection (1) of this section, establish not less
14 than thirty additional crisis residential centers pursuant to contract
15 with licensed private group care or specialized foster home facilities.
16 The staff at the facilities shall be trained so that they may
17 effectively counsel juveniles admitted to the centers, provide
18 treatment, supervision, and structure to the juveniles, and carry out
19 the responsibilities stated in RCW 13.32A.090. The responsibilities
20 stated in RCW 13.32A.090 may, in any of the centers, be carried out by
21 the department.

22 Crisis residential facilities shall be operated as semi-secure
23 facilities.

24 **Sec. 9.** RCW 74.13.035 and 1979 c 155 s 81 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 Crisis residential centers shall compile yearly records which shall
27 be transmitted to the department and which shall contain information
28 regarding population profiles of the children admitted to the centers

1 during each past calendar year. Such information shall include but
2 shall not be limited to the following:

3 (1) The number, age, and sex of children admitted to custody;

4 (2) Who brought the children to the center;

5 (3) Services provided to children admitted to the center;

6 (4) The circumstances which necessitated the children being brought
7 to the center;

8 (5) The ultimate disposition of cases;

9 (6) The number of children admitted to custody who ran away from
10 the center and their ultimate disposition, if any;

11 (7) Length of stay.

12 The department may require the provision of additional information and
13 may require each center to provide all such necessary information in a
14 uniform manner.

15 ~~((A center may, in addition to being licensed as such, also be
16 licensed as a family foster home or group care facility and may house
17 on the premises juveniles assigned for foster or group care.))~~

18 NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. Sections 4 through 6 of this act are
19 each added to chapter 43.20A RCW.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. The sum of four million fifty thousand
21 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
22 the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the
23 department of social and health services for fifty additional group
24 care beds serving children with mental health, drug, or alcohol
25 problems.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 12. The sum of one million nine hundred
27 eighty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is

1 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general
2 fund to the department of social and health services for two ten-bed,
3 staff-secure facilities providing diagnostic and secure treatment to
4 multiple-problem children with a history of runaway behavior.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The sum of one million two hundred
6 thirty-six thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
7 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general
8 fund to the department of social and health services to increase the
9 provision of family reconciliation services as provided in section 7 of
10 this act.