
SENATE BILL 5850

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl, Hargrove, Long, Owen, Heavey, Quigley, Haugen, Moyer, Winsley, Schow and Oke

Read first time 02/09/95. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to evaluation and accountability of programs within
2 the department of social and health services; and adding new sections
3 to chapter 43.20A RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20A RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The legislature recognizes that utilizing evaluation and
8 accountability systems is the key to improving department of social and
9 health services programs in the state of Washington. Program
10 evaluation and accountability will help the department provide more
11 effective and cost-efficient services to those individuals who, as a
12 result of their economic, social, or health condition, require
13 financial assistance, institutional care, rehabilitation, or other
14 social and health services.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.20A RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) To assist in the development of evaluation and accountability
18 systems, if funds are specifically appropriated for this purpose, the

1 department of social and health services shall contract with a public
2 or private entity to study models for evaluating the effectiveness of
3 programs within each division of the department. The study shall
4 examine at least one program within each division to be selected by the
5 secretary. The secretary shall select programs that will facilitate
6 the development of a set of representative evaluation models. The
7 models shall address data collection strategies, approaches to data
8 analysis, and the range of acceptable outcomes for measurement. The
9 entity shall develop and submit recommendations and evaluation models
10 to the department and the appropriate standing committees of the senate
11 and house of representatives.

12 (2) The entity selected shall consult with the legislative budget
13 committee, public and private funding sources that exercise regulatory
14 authority over the selected programs, the department, each division,
15 the vendors from whom the department purchases goods and services for
16 the selected programs, the service consumers, and, where appropriate,
17 other stakeholders impacted by the selected programs. The study shall
18 review models that include program improvement as an important part of
19 program evaluation. The study shall include but not be limited to
20 information about cost, time required, access to resources and data,
21 impact on participants, legal and ethical issues, audiences for the
22 evaluation, and the validity, reliability, and usefulness of the
23 information.

24 (3) The study and recommendations for designing or revising
25 evaluation systems shall be submitted to the department and the
26 appropriate standing committees of the senate and house of
27 representatives by October 1, 1996. The department shall submit to the
28 appropriate standing committees of the senate and house of
29 representatives a written report containing the department's response
30 to the study and recommendations by December 1, 1996.

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