ESSB 5922 - H AMD

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By Representative Dickerson

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 04/21/2005

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the 2 following:

- 3 "Sec. 1. RCW 26.44.100 and 1998 c 314 s 8 are each amended to read 4 as follows:
- 5 (1) The legislature finds parents and children often are not aware 6 of their due process rights when agencies are investigating allegations 7 of child abuse and neglect. The legislature reaffirms that all citizens, including parents, shall be afforded due process, that 8 protection of children remains the priority of the legislature, and 9 that this protection includes protecting the family unit from 10 unnecessary disruption. To facilitate this goal, the legislature 11 12 wishes to ensure that parents and children be advised in writing and orally, if feasible, of their basic rights and other specific 13 information as set forth in this chapter, provided that nothing 14 15 contained in this chapter shall cause any delay in protective custody 16 action.
 - (2) The department shall notify the ((alleged perpetrator of the)) parent, quardian, or legal custodian of a child of any allegations of child abuse ((and)) or neglect ((at the earliest possible point in the investigation that will not jeopardize the safety and protection of the child or the investigation process)) made against such person at the initial point of contact with such person, in a manner consistent with the laws maintaining the confidentiality of the persons making the complaints or allegations. Investigations of child abuse and neglect should be conducted in a manner that will not jeopardize the safety or protection of the child or the integrity of the investigation process.

Whenever the department completes an investigation of a child abuse or neglect report under chapter 26.44 RCW, the department shall notify the ((alleged perpetrator)) subject of the report ((and)) of the

department's investigative findings. The notice shall also advise the ((alleged perpetrator)) subject of the report that:

- (a) A written response to the report may be provided to the department and that such response will be filed in the record following receipt by the department;
- (b) Information in the department's record may be considered in subsequent investigations or proceedings related to child protection or child custody;
- (c) Founded reports of child abuse and neglect may be considered in determining whether the person is disqualified from being licensed to provide child care, employed by a licensed child care agency, or authorized by the department to care for children; and
- (d) ((An alleged perpetrator)) <u>A subject</u> named in a founded report of child abuse or neglect has the right to seek review of the finding as provided in this chapter.
- (3) The notification required by this section shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the person's last known address.
- (4) The duty of notification created by this section is subject to the ability of the department to ascertain the location of the person to be notified. The department shall exercise reasonable, good-faith efforts to ascertain the location of persons entitled to notification under this section.
- (5) The department shall provide training to all department personnel who conduct investigations under this section that shall include, but is not limited to, training regarding the legal duties of the department from the initial time of contact during investigation through treatment in order to protect children and families.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The legislature finds that whenever possible, children should remain in the home of their parents. It is only when the safety of the child is in jeopardy that the child should be removed from the home.
- It is the intent of the legislature that the department of social and health services be permitted to intervene in cases of chronic neglect where the health, welfare, or safety of the child is at risk. One incident of neglect may not rise to the level requiring state

intervention; however, a pattern of neglect has been shown to cause damage to the health and well-being of the child subject to the neglect.

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It is the intent of the legislature that, when chronic neglect has been found to exist in a family, the legal system reinforce the need for the parent's early engagement in services that will decrease the likelihood of future neglect. However, if the parents fail to comply with the offered necessary and available services, the state has the authority to intervene to protect the children who are at risk. If a parent fails to engage in available substance abuse or mental health services necessary to maintain the safety of a child or a parent fails to correct substance abuse deficiencies that jeopardize the safety of a child, the state has the authority to intervene to protect a child.

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 13.34.138 and 2003 c 227 s 5 are each amended to read 15 as follows:

(1) Except for children whose cases are reviewed by a citizen review board under chapter 13.70 RCW, the status of all children found to be dependent shall be reviewed by the court at least every six months from the beginning date of the placement episode or the date dependency is established, whichever is first, at a hearing in which it shall be determined whether court supervision should continue. initial review hearing shall be an in-court review and shall be set six months from the beginning date of the placement episode or no more than ninety days from the entry of the disposition order, whichever comes first. The initial review hearing may be a permanency planning hearing when necessary to meet the time frames set forth in RCW 13.34.145(3) or 13.34.134. The review shall include findings regarding the agency and parental completion of disposition plan requirements, and if necessary, revised permanency time limits. This review shall consider both the agency's and parent's efforts that demonstrate consistent measurable progress over time in meeting the disposition plan requirements. requirements for the initial review hearing, including the in-court requirement, shall be accomplished within existing resources. supervising agency shall provide a foster parent, preadoptive parent, or relative with notice of, and their right to an opportunity to be heard in, a review hearing pertaining to the child, but only if that

person is currently providing care to that child at the time of the hearing. This section shall not be construed to grant party status to any person who has been provided an opportunity to be heard.

- (a) A child shall not be returned home at the review hearing unless the court finds that a reason for removal as set forth in RCW 13.34.130 no longer exists. The parents, guardian, or legal custodian shall report to the court the efforts they have made to correct the conditions which led to removal. If a child is returned, casework supervision shall continue for a period of six months, at which time there shall be a hearing on the need for continued intervention.
- 11 (b) If the child is not returned home, the court shall establish in 12 writing:
 - (i) Whether reasonable services have been provided to or offered to the parties to facilitate reunion, specifying the services provided or offered;
 - (ii) Whether the child has been placed in the least-restrictive setting appropriate to the child's needs, including whether consideration and preference has been given to placement with the child's relatives;
 - (iii) Whether there is a continuing need for placement and whether the placement is appropriate;
 - (iv) Whether there has been compliance with the case plan by the child, the child's parents, and the agency supervising the placement;
 - (v) Whether progress has been made toward correcting the problems that necessitated the child's placement in out-of-home care;
 - (vi) Whether the parents have visited the child and any reasons why visitation has not occurred or has been infrequent;
 - (vii) Whether additional services, including housing assistance, are needed to facilitate the return of the child to the child's parents; if so, the court shall order that reasonable services be offered specifying such services; and
 - (viii) The projected date by which the child will be returned home or other permanent plan of care will be implemented.
 - (c) The court at the review hearing may order that a petition seeking termination of the parent and child relationship be filed.
- 36 (2)(a) In any case in which the court orders that a dependent child 37 may be returned to or remain in the child's home, the in-home placement 38 shall be contingent upon the following:

- (i) The compliance of the parents with court orders related to the
 care and supervision of the child, including compliance with an agency
 case plan; and
- (ii) The continued participation of the parents, if applicable, in available substance abuse or mental health treatment if substance abuse or mental illness was a contributing factor to the removal of the child.
- 8 (b) The following may be grounds for removal of the child from the
 9 home, subject to review by the court:
- 10 <u>(i) Noncompliance by the parents with the agency case plan or court</u>
 11 <u>order;</u>
- (ii) The parent's inability, unwillingness, or failure to
 participate in available services or treatment for themselves or the
 child, including substance abuse treatment if a parent's substance
 abuse was a contributing factor to the abuse or neglect; or
- (iii) The failure of the parents to successfully and substantially complete available services or treatment for themselves or the child, including substance abuse treatment if a parent's substance abuse was a contributing factor to the abuse or neglect.

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- (3) The court's ability to order housing assistance under RCW 13.34.130 and this section is: (a) Limited to cases in which homelessness or the lack of adequate and safe housing is the primary reason for an out-of-home placement; and (b) subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this specific purpose.
- 25 $((\frac{3}{3}))$ $\underline{(4)}$ The court shall consider the child's relationship with siblings in accordance with RCW 13.34.130(3).
- 27 **Sec. 4.** RCW 26.44.015 and 1999 c 176 s 28 are each amended to read 28 as follows:
- (1) This chapter shall not be construed to authorize interference with child-raising practices, including reasonable parental discipline, which are not injurious to the child's health, welfare, ((and)) or safety.
- 33 (2) Nothing in this chapter may be used to prohibit the reasonable 34 use of corporal punishment as a means of discipline.
- 35 (3) No parent or guardian may be deemed abusive or neglectful 36 solely by reason of the parent's or child's blindness, deafness, 37 developmental disability, or other handicap.

Sec. 5. RCW 26.44.020 and 2000 c 162 s 19 are each amended to read 2 as follows:

The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

- (1) "Court" means the superior court of the state of Washington, juvenile department.
- (2) "Law enforcement agency" means the police department, the prosecuting attorney, the state patrol, the director of public safety, or the office of the sheriff.
- (3) "Practitioner of the healing arts" or "practitioner" means a person licensed by this state to practice podiatric medicine and surgery, optometry, chiropractic, nursing, dentistry, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or medicine and surgery or to provide other health services. The term "practitioner" includes a duly accredited Christian Science practitioner: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That a person who is being furnished Christian Science treatment by a duly accredited Christian Science practitioner will not be considered, for that reason alone, a neglected person for the purposes of this chapter.
- 19 (4) "Institution" means a private or public hospital or any other 20 facility providing medical diagnosis, treatment or care.
- 21 (5) "Department" means the state department of social and health 22 services.
- 23 (6) "Child" or "children" means any person under the age of 24 eighteen years of age.
 - (7) "Professional school personnel" include, but are not limited to, teachers, counselors, administrators, child care facility personnel, and school nurses.
 - (8) "Social service counselor" means anyone engaged in a professional capacity during the regular course of employment in encouraging or promoting the health, welfare, support or education of children, or providing social services to adults or families, including mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, and domestic violence programs, whether in an individual capacity, or as an employee or agent of any public or private organization or institution.
- 35 (9) "Psychologist" means any person licensed to practice psychology 36 under chapter 18.83 RCW, whether acting in an individual capacity or as 37 an employee or agent of any public or private organization or 38 institution.

(10) "Pharmacist" means any registered pharmacist under chapter 18.64 RCW, whether acting in an individual capacity or as an employee or agent of any public or private organization or institution.

- (11) "Clergy" means any regularly licensed or ordained minister, priest, or rabbi of any church or religious denomination, whether acting in an individual capacity or as an employee or agent of any public or private organization or institution.
- (12) "Abuse or neglect" means ((the injury,)) sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, ((negligent treatment, or maltreatment)) or injury of a child by any person under circumstances which ((indicate that)) cause harm to the child's health, welfare, ((and)) or safety ((is harmed)), excluding conduct permitted under RCW 9A.16.100; or the negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by a person responsible for or providing care to the child. An abused child is a child who has been subjected to child abuse or neglect as defined in this section.
- (13) "Child protective services section" means the child protective services section of the department.
- (14) "Sexual exploitation" includes: (a) Allowing, permitting, or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution by any person; or (b) allowing, permitting, encouraging, or engaging in the obscene or pornographic photographing, filming, or depicting of a child by any person.
- (15) "Negligent treatment or maltreatment" means an act or ((omission)) a failure to act, or the cumulative effects of a pattern of conduct, behavior, or inaction, that evidences a serious disregard of consequences of such magnitude as to constitute a clear and present danger to ((the)) a child's health, welfare, ((and)) or safety. When considering whether a clear and present danger exists, evidence of a parent's substance abuse as a contributing factor to negligent treatment or maltreatment shall be given great weight. The fact that siblings share a bedroom is not, in and of itself, negligent treatment or maltreatment. Poverty, homelessness, or exposure to domestic violence as defined in RCW 26.50.010 that is perpetrated against someone other than the child do not constitute negligent treatment or maltreatment in and of themselves.
- (16) "Child protective services" means those services provided by the department designed to protect children from child abuse and neglect and safeguard such children from future abuse and neglect, and

- neglect reports. conduct investigations of child abuse and 1 2 Investigations may be conducted regardless of the location of the alleged abuse or neglect. Child protective services includes referral 3 to services to ameliorate conditions that endanger the welfare of 4 5 children, the coordination of necessary programs and services relevant to the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and 6 7 neglect, and services to children to ensure that each child has a permanent home. In determining whether protective services should be 8 provided, the department shall not decline to provide such services 9 10 solely because of the child's unwillingness or developmental inability to describe the nature and severity of the abuse or neglect. 11
 - (17) "Malice" or "maliciously" means an evil intent, wish, or design to vex, annoy, or injure another person. Such malice may be inferred from an act done in willful disregard of the rights of another, or an act wrongfully done without just cause or excuse, or an act or omission of duty betraying a willful disregard of social duty.
- 17 (18) "Sexually aggressive youth" means a child who is defined in RCW 74.13.075(1)(b) as being a sexually aggressive youth.

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- 19 (19) "Unfounded" means available information indicates that, more 20 likely than not, child abuse or neglect did not occur. No unfounded 21 allegation of child abuse or neglect may be disclosed to a child-22 placing agency, private adoption agency, or any other provider licensed 23 under chapter 74.15 RCW.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. A new section is added to chapter 26.44 RCW to read as follows:
 - (1) If the department, upon investigation of a report that a child has been abused or neglected as defined in this chapter, determines that the child has been subject to negligent treatment or maltreatment, the department may offer services to the child's parents, guardians, or legal custodians to: (a) Ameliorate the conditions that endangered the welfare of the child; or (b) address or treat the effects of mistreatment or neglect upon the child.
- 33 (2) When evaluating whether the child has been subject to negligent 34 treatment or maltreatment, evidence of a parent's substance abuse as a 35 contributing factor to a parent's failure to provide for a child's 36 basic health, welfare, or safety shall be given great weight.

(3) If the child's parents, guardians, or legal custodians are available and willing to participate on a voluntary basis in in-home services, and the department determines that in-home services on a voluntary basis are appropriate for the family, the department may offer such services.

- (4) In cases where the department has offered appropriate and reasonable services under subsection (1) of this section, and the parents, guardians, or legal custodians refuse to accept or fail to obtain available and appropriate treatment or services, or are unable or unwilling to participate in or successfully and substantially complete the treatment or services identified by the department, the department may initiate a dependency proceeding under chapter 13.34 RCW on the basis that the negligent treatment or maltreatment by the parent, guardian, or legal custodian constitutes neglect. When evaluating whether to initiate a dependency proceeding on this basis, the evidence of a parent's substance abuse as a contributing factor to the negligent treatment or maltreatment shall be given great weight.
- (5) Nothing in this section precludes the department from filing a dependency petition as provided in chapter 13.34 RCW if it determines that such action is necessary to protect the child from abuse or neglect.
- (6) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create in any person an entitlement to services or financial assistance in paying for services or to create judicial authority to order the provision of services to any person or family if the services are unavailable or unsuitable or if the child or family is not eligible for such services.
- **Sec. 7.** RCW 74.13.031 and 2004 c 183 s 3 are each amended to read 28 as follows:
- The department shall have the duty to provide child welfare services and shall:
- 31 (1) Develop, administer, supervise, and monitor a coordinated and 32 comprehensive plan that establishes, aids, and strengthens services for 33 the protection and care of runaway, dependent, or neglected children.
 - (2) Within available resources, recruit an adequate number of prospective adoptive and foster homes, both regular and specialized, i.e. homes for children of ethnic minority, including Indian homes for Indian children, sibling groups, handicapped and emotionally disturbed,

teens, pregnant and parenting teens, and annually report to the governor and the legislature concerning the department's success in:

(a) Meeting the need for adoptive and foster home placements; (b) reducing the foster parent turnover rate; (c) completing home studies for legally free children; and (d) implementing and operating the passport program required by RCW 74.13.285. The report shall include a section entitled "Foster Home Turn-Over, Causes and Recommendations."

(3)(a) Investigate ((complaints of any recent act or failure to act)) any reports of child abuse or neglect, as defined in chapter

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(3)(a) Investigate ((complaints of any recent act or failure to act)) any reports of child abuse or neglect, as defined in chapter 26.44 RCW, on the part of a parent, quardian, or legal custodian of the child, member of the household of such persons, an agency providing care to the child as defined in chapter 74.15 RCW, or other caretaker ((that)) of the child who is serving in place of the parent if the child abuse or neglect results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, or sexual abuse or exploitation, or that presents an imminent risk of serious harm((, and on the basis of the findings of such investigation, offer)). Evidence of a parent's substance abuse as a contributing factor to the alleged abuse or neglect shall be considered to present an imminent risk of serious harm to the child.

(b) Offer child welfare services ((in relation to the problem to such)), where warranted, to parents, legal custodians, or persons serving in ((loco parentis)) the place of the parent, ((and/or)) or bring the situation to the attention of an appropriate court, or another community agency((: PROVIDED, That)), including the appropriate law enforcement agency if the investigation reveals that a crime against a child may have been committed. However, an investigation is not required of nonaccidental injuries which are clearly not the result of a lack of care or supervision by the child's parents, legal custodians, or persons serving in ((loco parentis)) the place of the parent. ((If the investigation reveals that a crime against a child may have been committed, the department shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency.))

- (4) Offer, on a voluntary basis, family reconciliation services to families who are in conflict.
- (5) Monitor out-of-home placements, on a timely and routine basis, to assure the safety, well-being, and quality of care being provided is within the scope of the intent of the legislature as defined in RCW

74.13.010 and 74.15.010, and annually submit a report measuring the extent to which the department achieved the specified goals to the governor and the legislature.

- (6) Have authority to accept custody of children from parents and to accept custody of children from juvenile courts, where authorized to do so under law, to provide child welfare services including placement for adoption, and to provide for the physical care of such children and make payment of maintenance costs if needed. Except where required by Public Law 95-608 (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1915), no private adoption agency which receives children for adoption from the department shall discriminate on the basis of race, creed, or color when considering applications in their placement for adoption.
- (7) Have authority to provide temporary shelter to children who have run away from home and who are admitted to crisis residential centers.
- (8) Have authority to purchase care for children; and shall follow in general the policy of using properly approved private agency services for the actual care and supervision of such children insofar as they are available, paying for care of such children as are accepted by the department as eligible for support at reasonable rates established by the department.
- (9) Establish a children's services advisory committee which shall assist the secretary in the development of a partnership plan for utilizing resources of the public and private sectors, and advise on all matters pertaining to child welfare, licensing of child care agencies, adoption, and services related thereto. At least one member shall represent the adoption community.
- (10) Have authority to provide continued foster care or group care for individuals from eighteen through twenty years of age to enable them to complete their high school or vocational school program.
- (11) Refer cases to the division of child support whenever state or federal funds are expended for the care and maintenance of a child, including a child with a developmental disability who is placed as a result of an action under chapter 13.34 RCW, unless the department finds that there is good cause not to pursue collection of child support against the parent or parents of the child.
- 37 (12) Have authority within funds appropriated for foster care 38 services to purchase care for Indian children who are in the custody of

a federally recognized Indian tribe or tribally licensed child-placing agency pursuant to parental consent, tribal court order, or state juvenile court order; and the purchase of such care shall be subject to the same eligibility standards and rates of support applicable to other children for whom the department purchases care.

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Notwithstanding any other provision of RCW 13.32A.170 through 13.32A.200 and 74.13.032 through 74.13.036, or of this section all services to be provided by the department of social and health services under subsections (4), (6), and (7) of this section, subject to the limitations of these subsections, may be provided by any program offering such services funded pursuant to Titles II and III of the federal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention act of 1974.

- (13) Within amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, provide preventive services to families with children that prevent or shorten the duration of an out-of-home placement.
- 16 (14) Have authority to provide independent living services to 17 youths, including individuals eighteen through twenty years of age, who 18 are or have been in foster care.
- <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 8.** The legislature recognizes that the fiscal 19 20 and workload impact of this act may not be fully determined until after 21 it is implemented and that such impact may further be affected by the funding or availability of community-based prevention and remedial 22 23 For that reason, the department of social and health 24 services shall report on the implementation of this act to the appropriate legislative committees and the governor by December 1, 25 26 2006. The report shall include information regarding any change over previous years in the number and type of child abuse and neglect 27 referrals received and investigations conducted, any change in in-home 28 and out-of-home dependency placements and/or filings, any increased 29 service costs, barriers to implementation, and an assessment of the 30 31 fiscal and workload impact on the department. Such information shall be reviewed by the legislature for possible amendment of this act or 32 33 additional allocation of resources to the department for implementation 34 purposes.
- 35 **Sec. 9.** RCW 13.34.050 and 2000 c 122 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

- (1) The court may enter an order directing a law enforcement 1 2 officer, probation counselor, or child protective services official to take a child into custody if: (a) A petition is filed with the 3 juvenile court alleging that the child is dependent and that the 4 child's health, safety, and welfare will be seriously endangered if not 5 taken into custody; (b) an affidavit or declaration is filed by the 6 department in support of the petition setting forth specific factual 7 information evidencing reasonable grounds that the child's health, 8 safety, and welfare will be seriously endangered if not taken into 9 10 custody and at least one of the grounds set forth demonstrates a risk of imminent harm to the child. "Imminent harm" for purposes of this 11 12 section shall include, but not be limited to, circumstances of sexual 13 abuse, ((or)) sexual exploitation as defined in RCW 26.44.020, and a 14 parent's failure to perform basic parental functions, obligations, and duties as the result of substance abuse; and (c) the court finds 15 reasonable grounds to believe the child is dependent and that the 16 child's health, safety, and welfare will be seriously endangered if not 17 taken into custody. 18
 - (2) Any petition that does not have the necessary affidavit or declaration demonstrating a risk of imminent harm requires that the parents are provided notice and an opportunity to be heard before the order may be entered.
 - (3) The petition and supporting documentation must be served on the parent, and if the child is in custody at the time the child is removed, on the entity with custody other than the parent. Failure to effect service does not invalidate the petition if service was attempted and the parent could not be found.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. This act takes effect January 1, 2007.
- NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. This act may be known and cited as the Justice and Raiden Act."
- 31 Correct the title.

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