

SSB 5872 - S AMD 277

By Senators Stevens, Hargrove

ADOPTED 03/14/2005

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A task force on the administrative
4 organization, structure, and delivery of services to children and
5 families is created to determine the most appropriate and effective
6 administrative structure for delivery of social and health services to
7 children and families, including juvenile rehabilitation services. The
8 task force shall study how best to ensure that an administration has
9 defined lines of responsibility for delivering services to families and
10 children in need and the best means for the public to hold government
11 accountable for delivery of those services. The task force shall
12 compare the effectiveness of including children and families services
13 delivery within an umbrella agency, such as the current department of
14 social and health services, with establishing a separate department for
15 children and family services whose director reports directly to the
16 governor and is not under the administration of an umbrella agency.
17 The task force shall, as part of the comparison, examine the
18 administrative structures used in other states for the delivery of
19 services to children and families.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The task force created in section 1 of
21 this act shall consist of the following members appointed by the
22 governor:

23 (a) The dean of the school of social work at the University of
24 Washington or an academic professor from a list recommended by the
25 dean;

26 (b) Two members of the senate, from names recommended by the chair
27 of the senate committee on human services and corrections, which must
28 include one member from the minority party;

1 (c) Two members of the house of representatives, from names
2 recommended by the chair of the committee on children and family
3 services, which must include one member from the minority party;

4 (d) An academic professor with expertise in the management of
5 public agencies, from a list of names recommended by the dean of the
6 University of Washington's Daniel J. Evans graduate school of public
7 administration;

8 (e) A juvenile court administrator, from a list of names
9 recommended by the juvenile court administrators' association;

10 (f) A family superior court judge, from a list of names recommended
11 by the superior court judges' association;

12 (g) A law enforcement officer with experience in working with child
13 protective services investigations, from a list of names recommended by
14 the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs;

15 (h) The director of the office of public defense;

16 (i) The director of the office of the family and children's
17 ombudsman;

18 (j) A line worker from the department of social and health
19 services, juvenile rehabilitation administration's community
20 supervision and placement services, from a list of names recommended by
21 the federation of state employees;

22 (k) A line social worker from the department of social and health
23 services with a master's degree in social work and fifteen years'
24 experience in the public or private sector investigating child abuse or
25 neglect and referring families and children to alcohol and substance
26 abuse services, from a list of names recommended by the federation of
27 state employees;

28 (l) A private vendor of mental health services to families of
29 children and children in both in-home and out-of-home placements as a
30 result of abuse or neglect or for juvenile rehabilitation, from a list
31 of names recommended by the Washington state coalition of children's
32 residential services;

33 (m) The director of the department of social and health services,
34 children's administration, office of legislative affairs; and

35 (n) A representative of the governor's office.

36 (2) The dean of the school of social work at the University of
37 Washington or the academic professor appointed by the governor shall be
38 the chair of the task force.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The task force shall study and report
2 findings and recommendations on which administrative and service
3 delivery structures will best accomplish positive outcomes for children
4 and families and efficiencies in administration, including but not
5 limited to:

6 (a) Reducing the number of children at risk for abuse or neglect
7 and increasing the safety and well-being of children;

8 (b) Increasing the ability of families to care for their own
9 children and reducing the number of children in foster care;

10 (c) Increasing placement stability and permanency for children in
11 out-of-home care and reducing unsafe and inappropriate placements;

12 (d) Delivering appropriate and timely mental health services;

13 (e) Providing adequate and appropriate staff training and
14 education;

15 (f) Promoting foster parent recruitment, training, and retention;

16 (g) Reducing the frequency and duration of sibling separation;

17 (h) Delivering adequate and timely services to adolescents;

18 (i) Increasing responsibility and accountability for achieving
19 goals; and

20 (j) Improving any other measurable outcomes for children and
21 families.

22 (2) The task force shall study and report findings and
23 recommendations on the costs, benefits, savings, or reductions in
24 services of the various administrative and service delivery structures
25 described in section 1 of this act.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The first meeting of the task force shall be
27 no later than May 1, 2005, with subsequent meetings as needed. The
28 task force may consult with others as is needed.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The final report of the findings and
30 recommendations shall be provided to appropriate committees of the
31 legislature by December 1, 2005.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
33 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
34 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
35 immediately."

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1 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "Relating to" strike the
2 remainder of the title and insert "creating the joint task force on the
3 administration and delivery of services to children and families;
4 creating new sections; and declaring an emergency."

EFFECT: Creates a task force appointed by the governor to make
recommendations on the best design and structure to deliver social and
health services to families and children. The final report is due
12/1/05.

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