
SENATE BILL 6229

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senators O'Ban, Darneille, Carlyle, and Rolfes

Read first time 01/13/16. Referred to Committee on Human Services,
Mental Health & Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to streamlining foster care licensing; reenacting
2 and amending RCW 74.15.100; and adding new sections to chapter 74.15
3 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 74.15
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds and declares that the recruitment and
8 retention of foster care families has become a crisis that negatively
9 impacts children in dire need of suitable foster care placements. In
10 order to address this crisis, the state seeks to improve its ability
11 to recruit and retain foster families. To achieve this goal, it is
12 necessary to streamline the foster care licensing process without
13 compromising the safeguards in place to ensure that children in
14 foster care are placed with qualified families.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.15
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 In order to streamline the foster care application process for
18 child-placing agencies, the agency shall:

19 (1) Accept foster care parent applications electronically;

1 (2) Complete and return background clearances within thirty days,
2 including weekends and holidays, or provide explanation to either the
3 prospective parent, the child-placing agency, or both about why there
4 is a delay;

5 (3) Ensure that the forms required across the state are uniform
6 and consistent between regions;

7 (4) If related agency forms change after the foster care
8 application has been received by the agency, not require the
9 applicant to resubmit information on a substantially similar form;

10 (5) Ensure that foster care parent applications are processed in
11 a timely manner. If the application process is not complete within
12 ninety days of the agency's receipt of the application and background
13 clearance, and the delay is not based on missing information from the
14 applicant, the agency shall extend the application process an
15 additional thirty days;

16 (6) Email the fingerprint original case agency number to a child-
17 placing agency within five business days of receipt of the
18 fingerprint-based background notice from the family or child-placing
19 agency, in order to expedite a child-placing agency's ability to
20 arrange for fingerprint appointments for foster parents and potential
21 foster parents.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.15.100 and 2009 c 520 s 16 and 2009 c 206 s 1 are
23 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

24 Each agency or supervising agency shall make application for a
25 license or renewal of license to the department on forms prescribed
26 by the department. A licensed agency having foster-family homes under
27 its supervision may make application for a license on behalf of any
28 such foster-family home. Such a foster home license shall cease to be
29 valid when the home is no longer under the supervision of that
30 agency. Upon receipt of such application, the department shall either
31 grant or deny a license within ninety days unless the application is
32 for licensure as a foster-family home, in which case RCW 74.15.040
33 and section 2 of this act shall govern. A license shall be granted if
34 the agency meets the minimum requirements set forth in chapter 74.15
35 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 and the departmental requirements consistent
36 herewith, except that an initial license may be issued as provided in
37 RCW 74.15.120. Licenses provided for in chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW
38 74.13.031 shall be issued for a period of three years. The licensee,
39 however, shall advise the secretary of any material change in

1 circumstances which might constitute grounds for reclassification of
2 license as to category. The license issued under this chapter is not
3 transferable and applies only to the licensee. The license shall be
4 limited to a particular location which shall be stated on the
5 license. For licensed foster-family homes having an acceptable
6 history of child care, the license may remain in effect for thirty
7 days after a move, except that this will apply only if the family
8 remains intact. Licensees must notify their licensor before moving to
9 a new location and may request a continuation of the license at the
10 new location. At the request of the licensee, the department shall,
11 within thirty days following a foster-family home licensee's move to
12 a new location, amend the license to reflect the new location,
13 provided the new location and the licensee meet minimum licensing
14 standards.

--- END ---