
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5831

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Darneille, Keiser, Kuderer, and Hunt)

READ FIRST TIME 01/11/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to assessing the needs of girls and young women
2 concurrently involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare
3 systems; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the well-
6 being of girls and women is a reliable indicator of overall community
7 health. On a national basis, girls and young women experience higher
8 rates of sexual abuse and like forms of victimization relative to
9 boys and young men. Research findings document a relationship between
10 childhood victimization and juvenile justice system involvement.

11 (2) The legislature intends that the services provided across the
12 child welfare and juvenile justice systems for the target population
13 consisting of dually involved females should be research-based and
14 data-driven in order to identify effective prevention strategies,
15 best practices for intervention, and system improvements. The
16 services provided to the target population should address state and
17 local needs for efficient use of limited financial resources and
18 reduce reliance on costly and ineffective placement and
19 incarceration.

20 (3) The legislature acknowledges that baseline information on the
21 target population of dually involved females is not presently

1 available. Data identifying the prevalence and characteristics of the
2 target population of dually involved females and their families,
3 access to trauma-informed interventions, and academic support will
4 inform understanding of the root causes of the complex issues
5 impacting their well-being and development. There is a need for
6 gender-specific data collection across Washington's child welfare,
7 juvenile justice, and education systems. There is also a need for
8 data examination identifying potential best practices and system
9 changes leading to improved outcomes for dually involved females.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state institute for
11 public policy shall conduct a statewide study on the needs of dually
12 involved females. The study must review available data for the
13 following purposes:

14 (a) Understanding the prevalence and demographics of the dually
15 involved female population and their families;

16 (b) Tracking outcomes for this population including, but not
17 limited to, academic, social, and vocational achievement; and

18 (c) Surveying other states' systems that address and treat the
19 needs of this population.

20 (2) To the extent possible, the data should be disaggregated by
21 race and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity,
22 county of residence, and other relevant variables.

23 (3) To the extent possible, the study should include a cost-
24 benefit analysis of programs for dually involved females that would
25 show evidence of avoidance of costs associated with public welfare
26 programs or would demonstrate higher educational attainment.

27 (4) By July 1, 2019, the Washington state institute for public
28 policy shall submit its study findings to the legislative fiscal and
29 policy committees with responsibility for child welfare and juvenile
30 justice issues and the work group created in subsection (5) of this
31 section.

32 (5)(a) Effective July 1, 2019, the department of children, youth,
33 and families and the Washington state supreme court gender and
34 justice commission shall convene a work group to develop, in
35 consultation with the Washington state institute for public policy,
36 an implementation plan for policies, best practices, and system
37 improvements based on the study findings of the Washington state
38 institute for public policy under this section.

1 (b) The work group shall also: Evaluate the capabilities and
2 limitations of current systems to serve the dually involved female
3 population effectively; and identify opportunities for collaboration
4 across systems with respect to alternatives to formal case
5 processing, and opportunities for coordinated service plans, case
6 planning, and management. The plan should include an evaluation
7 rubric and accountability standards for measuring success in reduced
8 recidivism, use of and length of stay in detention, improved learning
9 support, increased stability in home or placement, and increased
10 development of social competencies.

11 (c) By December 1, 2019, the work group shall report to the
12 legislative fiscal and policy committees with responsibility for
13 child welfare and juvenile justice issues on its implementation plan
14 and:

15 (i) Effective protocols and procedures to ensure consistent use
16 of targeted evidence-based interventions; and

17 (ii) Promising best practices for improving academic, social, and
18 vocational achievement.

19 (6) For purposes of this section, "dually involved female" means
20 any female person under eighteen years of age who has concurrent
21 involvement, whether diversionary, formal, or a combination of the
22 two, with both the child welfare and the juvenile justice systems in
23 Washington state.

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