
SENATE BILL 5831

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Darneille, Keiser, Kuderer, and Hunt

Read first time 02/16/17. Referred to Committee on Human Services,
Mental Health & Housing.

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, in consultation with the Washington state supreme
12 court gender and justice commission, shall conduct a statewide study
13 on the needs of dually involved females. The study shall collect data
14 for the following purposes:

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

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

19 (c) Evaluating the capabilities and limitations of current
20 systems to serve this population effectively.

21 (2) The collected data should be disaggregated by race and
22 ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, county of
23 residence, and other relevant variables.

24 (3) The study should include cost-benefit analysis of programs
25 that would show evidence of avoidance of costs associated with public
26 welfare programs or would demonstrate higher educational attainment.

27 (4) The study should identify opportunities for working together
28 across systems with respect to alternatives to formal case
29 processing, and opportunities for coordinated service plans, case
30 planning, and management.

31 (5) The study should develop an implementation plan for policies,
32 programs, best practices, and system improvements. The study should
33 include an evaluation rubric and accountability standards for
34 measuring success in reduced recidivism, use of and length of stay in
35 detention, improved learning support, increased stability in home or
36 placement, and increased development of social competencies.

37 (6) By December 1, 2018, the gender and justice commission shall
38 review the study completed under this section and report to the

1 legislative fiscal and policy committees with responsibility for
2 child welfare and juvenile justice issues on:

3 (a) Effective protocols and procedures to ensure consistent use
4 of targeted evidence-based interventions; and

5 (b) Promising best practices for improving academic, social, and
6 vocational achievement.

7 (7) For purposes of this section, "dually involved female" means
8 any female person under eighteen years of age who has concurrent
9 involvement, whether diversionary, formal, or a combination of the
10 two, with both the child welfare and the juvenile justice systems in
11 Washington state.

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