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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2471

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By House Committee on Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Rasmussen, Leonard, Winsley, Heavey, Moyer, Ballard, Wang, Beck, Belcher, Brumsickle, Fraser, Riley, Ebersole, Roland, Anderson, G. Cole, Prentice, Wood, Ludwig, R. Johnson, Cantwell, Spanel, Valle, Forner, Brekke, Ferguson, Hine, Morris, Ogden, May, Orr, Braddock, Appelwick, Prince, G. Fisher, Sheldon, Basich, R. Fisher, Day, Broback, O'Brien, J. Kohl, Morton, Franklin, Dorn, Kremen, Rayburn, Bowman, Hargrove, Chandler, Pruitt, Dellwo, Paris, Brough, R. King, Jones, Mitchell, Sprenkle and H. Myers)

Read first time 01/22/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to prevention services for at-risk children and  
2 their families; adding new sections to chapter 43.63A RCW; creating a  
3 new section; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as the  
6 children's investment trust act.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature finds that:

8 (1) The failure of a significant number of our children to develop  
9 to their full potential threatens Washington state's future  
10 productivity and competitiveness;

11 (2) The failure of children to thrive and develop leads to  
12 avoidable long-term costs to society in terms of illness, welfare,

1 teenage pregnancies, school drop-outs, drug and alcohol addiction,  
2 child abuse, and crime;

3 (3) Investments in preventive services for children and their  
4 families are highly effective in alleviating such social costs if  
5 children are reached early;

6 (4) While much is spent on children through a variety of programs,  
7 the focus has most often been on crisis response. While support for  
8 children in crisis is essential, a more long-range view dictates a  
9 focus on preventive services. Only through early intervention and  
10 prevention can we stem the flow of children needing crisis help and  
11 treatment. Our overloaded crisis systems will remain overloaded unless  
12 we move toward prevention strategies;

13 (5) Much is spent on treatment approaches identifying a specific  
14 problem and mandating a specific service in response. While  
15 identifying single problems and specific interventions are important,  
16 research suggests that the most effective early interventions for  
17 children are those which are more comprehensive in approach, with the  
18 flexibility to respond to a host of potential barriers or dysfunctions;  
19 and

20 (6) Together, the lack of comprehensiveness in approach and the  
21 crisis nature of current assistance create a system widely viewed as  
22 fragmented, short-sighted, and ineffective. With a few exceptions, we  
23 have a system designed not to help children thrive and develop, but to  
24 help them survive after being hurt.

25 The legislature is aware that model programs such as the federal  
26 head start program and our own early childhood education and assistance  
27 program incorporate many of the positive concepts suggested herein; the  
28 legislature is anxious to incorporate the positive aspects of these  
29 more comprehensive models into currently existing single-service

1 programs at the community level, making them more comprehensive, more  
2 culturally sensitive, and more prevention-oriented in nature.

3 Therefore, through this act, it is the intent of the legislature to  
4 develop a dedicated trust fund supported by general appropriations, as  
5 well as gifts, grants, and earmarked revenue, which will: Provide  
6 start-up funding for pilot programs, based on local need; compliment  
7 existing community programs; help to develop comprehensive, culturally  
8 sensitive, prevention-oriented programs for at-risk children and their  
9 families; foster self-sufficiency among families; and encourage and  
10 support local prevention initiatives that develop creative community  
11 partnerships.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Unless the context clearly requires  
13 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout sections 4  
14 through 6 of this act.

15 (1) "Comprehensive service" means a service that responds to the  
16 needs of families or children, or both, as they are identified,  
17 regardless of the specific service being provided when new issues  
18 arise.

19 (2) "Magnet programs" are those existing programs which currently  
20 attract families to human service providers, such as housing programs,  
21 energy assistance, or health care. Magnet services can be leveraged  
22 into a starting point to identify and respond to other needs of the  
23 child and family, often by using existing resources in creating  
24 partnerships.

25 (3) "Model program services" means services targeted to young  
26 children, zero to eight years of age, and that: Are responsive to the  
27 family unit as a whole; are comprehensive and culturally sensitive in  
28 nature; generally occur before the young child is in crisis due to  
29 abuse or neglect; incorporate mutually developed family goals; and

1 include coordinated efforts from other community resources. "Model  
2 program services" may incorporate new and innovative community  
3 partnerships into the service design, as between a school district and  
4 a private nonprofit agency, or between a private nonprofit agency and  
5 the sheriff's department, for example.

6 (4) "Prevention services" means program interventions that focus on  
7 young children, generally zero to eight years of age, prior to those  
8 children being in need of crisis intervention, and which address  
9 dysfunctions related to both child and family.

10 (5) "Single service" means those programs such as energy assistance  
11 or landlord-tenant counseling, as examples, that allow funds to be used  
12 only for that specific service, even if, while providing that service,  
13 the service provider identifies other problems in the family that need  
14 attention.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The purposes of chapter . . . ., Laws of  
16 1992 (this act) are to:

17 (1) Respond to a widely felt need to more aggressively fund  
18 prevention services to and for young at-risk children and their  
19 families, specifically tailored to the unique problems existing at the  
20 local community level;

21 (2) Provide a source of potential funding to leverage and improve  
22 upon the integration and coordination of existing services, and to  
23 develop new and innovative partnerships that focus on prevention,  
24 leading toward self-sufficiency; and

25 (3) Assist existing programs to take a more comprehensive,  
26 culturally sensitive service approach by providing a source of funding  
27 that encourages specific local response to the wide array of problems  
28 that may be impacting at-risk children and their families.

1 Overall, the legislature desires to actively support programs for  
2 young at-risk children that: Focus on local responses which are  
3 culturally sensitive; provide comprehensive help rather than a single  
4 service; result in the development of a positive working relationship  
5 between the provider and the family based on mutual responsibility;  
6 empower the family to become more self-sufficient; reach young children  
7 and their families before they are in major crisis; and rely on  
8 existing community-based services as magnet programs that already  
9 attract children and families in need.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The children's investment trust  
11 account is created in the state treasury. Moneys in the account may be  
12 spent only after appropriation. The account is subject to allotment  
13 procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW. Moneys from the account shall be  
14 used by the department of community development as follows to carry out  
15 the purposes of section 4 of this act:

16 (a) Forty-eight and one-half percent for grants under the community  
17 services block grant program;

18 (b) Forty-eight and one-half percent for competitive grants; and

19 (c) Three percent for administration of the fund by the department  
20 of community development.

21 (2) The department of community development shall seek grant  
22 proposals that incorporate model program services and carry out the  
23 purposes enumerated in section 4 of this act. To facilitate continuity  
24 of program, proposals should be for three years of continuous service.  
25 To facilitate widespread distribution of the funds and services, no  
26 grant shall exceed seven hundred fifty thousand dollars for the three-  
27 year period. In addition, no competitively grant-funded agency may  
28 submit a second competitive proposal until the initial program is  
29 within one year of expiration. Funded programs may not be

1 automatically renewed, but may compete for ongoing funding on a three-  
2 year cycle.

3 (3) Entities eligible for competitive grant funds include any  
4 nonprofit institution showing the ability to extend existing services  
5 into more effective prevention-oriented programs for at-risk children  
6 and their families to carry out the purpose enumerated in section 4 of  
7 this act.

8 (4) The department of community development shall, in order to  
9 carry out the purposes enumerated in section 4 of this act, adopt rules  
10 governing the development of a competitive request for proposal  
11 process; fiscal accounting; annual site visits to funded programs; the  
12 review and analysis of annual program reports provided by funded  
13 agencies; and development of reports provided to the legislature in  
14 partnership with local program providers.

15 (5) The department of community development shall designate a  
16 reasonable amount of each contractor's funding under chapter ..., Laws  
17 of 1992 (this act) for third party independent evaluation. Evaluation  
18 design shall be incorporated into each project's application and shall  
19 include both process and outcome components of each individual  
20 contractor's program.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act are  
22 each added to chapter 43.63A RCW.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** If an appropriation for this act,  
24 Substitute House Bill No. 2471, is not provided by June 30, 1995, this  
25 act shall be null and void.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** If any provision of this act or its  
27 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the

1 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
2 persons or circumstances is not affected.

3       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 9.**       This act shall take effect July 1, 1992.