

---

HOUSE BILL 1608

---

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1993 Regular Session

By Representatives Riley, Leonard, Thibaudeau, Brough, Jacobsen, Kremen, J. Kohl and Anderson

Read first time 02/03/93. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to foster parents; amending RCW 74.13.260; adding  
2 a new section to chapter 74.13 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a large number  
5 of foster parents stop providing foster care every year. High turnover  
6 of foster parents results in expensive recruitment and training efforts  
7 and a loss of quality, experienced families to care for children with  
8 severe problems and special needs.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW  
10 under the subchapter heading "foster care" to read as follows:

11 (1) The department of social and health services shall contract  
12 with a state-wide nonprofit organization to provide foster parents  
13 accused of child abuse or neglect with immediate response and  
14 nonjudgmental support from trained volunteers. The nonprofit  
15 organization shall develop training standards and practice standards  
16 for all participating volunteers.

17 (2) The department of social and health services shall contract  
18 with a state-wide nonprofit foster care organization to perform an

1 annual survey of foster parents who choose to stop providing foster  
2 care services for the department.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.13.260 and 1990 c 284 s 4 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 Regular on-site monitoring of foster homes to assure quality care  
6 improves care provided to children in family foster care. An on-site  
7 monitoring program shall be established by the department to assure  
8 quality care and regularly identify problem areas. The department  
9 shall report to the legislature by June 1 of each year, beginning with  
10 June 1, 1991, the results of the monitoring, including identified  
11 problem areas, and make policy recommendations to improve the quality  
12 of foster care based on the results of the monitoring. Monitoring  
13 shall be done by the department, or under contract to a state-wide  
14 nonprofit organization, on a random sample basis of no less than ten  
15 percent of the total licensed family foster homes licensed by the  
16 department on July 1 of each year.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
18 sections 2 and 3 of this act, referencing sections 2 and 3 of this act  
19 by bill and section number, is not provided by June 30, 1993, in the  
20 omnibus appropriations act, sections 2 and 3 of this act are null and  
21 void.

--- END ---