

---

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2381**

---

**State of Washington**

**53rd Legislature**

**1994 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Leonard and King)

Read first time 01/31/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to children with severe medical problems; adding a  
2 new section to chapter 74.09 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring  
3 an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that children with  
6 severe medical problems receive care in hospitals which can exceed one  
7 hundred thousand dollars per month. The legislature further finds that  
8 the same child can be cared for at a cost of twelve thousand dollars  
9 per month at the Ashley House facility in King county, Washington. The  
10 legislature further finds that a component of the rapid rise in health  
11 care costs is unnecessary or inappropriate care provided in hospitals  
12 when high-quality, less-expensive care is available in the community.  
13 The legislature further finds that the Pediatric Interim Care Facility  
14 in King county, Washington was established in 1990 through legislative  
15 action to also care for children with severe medical needs who do not  
16 require hospital care. The legislature further finds that through  
17 legislative action children received care in a more appropriate and  
18 home-like setting and substantial savings were realized by avoiding the  
19 inappropriate expenditure of limited state resources.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 74.09 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        The department of social and health services shall make prospective  
4 payments to current contracted out-of-home care providers serving  
5 children with severe medical problems and who retain licensed health  
6 professionals as a part of their staffing level and who have not fewer  
7 than ten beds to ensure the availability of beds for children in need  
8 and to conserve scarce state funds through minimizing the inappropriate  
9 and unnecessary care these children currently receive in hospitals when  
10 that level of care is unnecessary. For those children for whom out-of-  
11 home care is determined to be the most appropriate level of care the  
12 department shall establish appropriate referral procedures to ensure  
13 the timely transfer of children with severe medical problems from  
14 hospitals to out-of-home service providers licensed for their care.

15        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    This act is necessary for the immediate  
16 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
17 state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take  
18 effect immediately.

--- END ---