
HOUSE BILL 2787

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Representatives Thibaudeau, Brown, Wolfe, Leonard, Holm, Karahalios
and Eide

Read first time 01/24/94. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to child support assurance; adding a new section to
2 chapter 74.20A RCW; creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that reliable receipt
5 of child support payments by custodial parents, particularly those who
6 have limited income, is essential to maintaining economic self-
7 sufficiency. The legislature intends to study the feasibility of
8 establishing a child support assurance system in Washington state that
9 will protect families from financial disruption caused by a
10 noncustodial parent's inability or unwillingness to pay child support.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington state institute for public
12 policy shall undertake a study to determine the feasibility of
13 establishing a child support assurance system in Washington state. A
14 child support assurance system is one that provides a guarantee of a
15 minimum child support benefit to custodial parents with a child support
16 order, that is uniform and independent of the actual support order
17 established for any child. The study must include, but not be limited
18 to, consideration of the following issues:

1 (1) Whether child support assurance payments should be available to
2 custodial parents, regardless of financial need, or be limited to
3 custodial parents with income below a fixed threshold level;

4 (2) How the amount of the monthly child support assurance payment
5 should be determined;

6 (3) Whether, or to what extent, child support assurance payments
7 should be disregarded as income for purposes of determining eligibility
8 for income assistance benefits;

9 (4) How child support assurance payments can be structured to
10 minimize or avoid adverse effects on food stamp benefits, subsidized
11 housing, or the earned income tax credit; and

12 (5) Whether additional steps should be taken to increase the number
13 of children for whom a child support order has been issued.

14 The results of the study must be submitted to the governor and
15 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 1994.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.20A RCW
17 to read as follows:

18 If federal funds become available to the states for the purpose of
19 conducting child support demonstration projects, the department shall
20 take any actions necessary to apply for the funds.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of fifty thousand dollars, or as
22 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
23 ending June 30, 1995, from the general fund to The Evergreen State
24 College solely for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

--- END ---