

2 SSB 6245 - H COMM AMD
3 By Committee on Health Care

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5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 (1) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions
10 in this section apply in this section.

11 (a) "Community child death review team" means a multidisciplinary,
12 multiagency team, including without limitation professionals in the
13 area of public health, medicine, law enforcement, mental health, social
14 services, chemical dependency treatment, child welfare, and social work
15 and representation from the foster parent community and the general
16 public, who perform a comprehensive evaluation of circumstances leading
17 up to the unexpected death of a minor in the care of the department.

18 (b) "Consistent process of review" means the use of protocols that
19 ensure the comprehensive evaluation of circumstances leading up to the
20 unexpected death of a minor.

21 (c) "Department" means the department of social and health
22 services.

23 (d) "Unexpected or unexplained death of a minor" means a death not
24 resulting from a diagnosed terminal illness or other debilitating or
25 deteriorating illness or condition where death is anticipated.

26 (2) The department, in consultation with the department of health
27 and with coroners and medical examiners, shall review deaths of minors
28 under this section by using a two-step process.

29 (a) The regional administrator for the department in the region
30 where the death occurred, in consultation with the local coroner, law
31 enforcement, or medical examiner, shall perform fact-finding regarding
32 the unexpected death of a minor, and shall present the results of the
33 fact-finding to the community child death review team, which shall
34 convene to review the death.

1 (b) The community child death review team shall meet to consider
2 and review the child's death. Members of the team shall be reimbursed
3 for travel expenses as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

4 (3) The department shall adopt rules regarding child death review
5 under this section, including, but not limited to time frames for
6 completion of child death review, the manner of deaths subject to
7 review, and the membership of community child death review teams, for
8 purposes of reviewing unexpected or unexplained deaths of children in
9 the care of or receiving the services of the department.

10 (4) The department of health and the department shall provide an
11 annual, joint report to the appropriate committees of the legislature
12 on child deaths in Washington state. This report shall include, but
13 not be limited to, information on deaths attributed to child
14 maltreatment and deaths of children in the care of or receiving those
15 services described in this chapter from the department.

16 (5) This section does not apply to cases involving stillborn
17 infants in hospitals, nor to predischarge deaths of infants delivered
18 in neonatal intensive care units in hospitals."

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22 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "investigations;" strike the
23 remainder of the title and insert "and adding a new section to chapter
24 74.13 RCW."

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