
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5296

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Costa, Long, McAuliffe, Prentice, Shin, Fairley, Kohl-Welles, Rasmussen, Haugen, Gardner and Kline)

Read first time 03/01/1999.

1 AN ACT Relating to deterring juvenile violence; amending RCW
2 70.190.005; and making an appropriation.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.190.005 and 1994 sp.s. c 7 s 301 are each amended
5 to read as follows:

6 The legislature finds that a primary goal of public involvement in
7 the lives of children has been to strengthen the family unit.

8 However, the legislature recognizes that traditional two-parent
9 families with one parent routinely at home are now in the minority. In
10 addition, extended family and natural community supports have eroded
11 drastically. The legislature recognizes that public policy assumptions
12 must be altered to account for this new social reality. Public effort
13 must be redirected to expand, support, strengthen, and help reconstruct
14 family and community networks to assist in meeting the needs of
15 children.

16 The legislature finds that a broad variety of services for children
17 and families has been independently designed over the years and that
18 the coordination and cost-effectiveness of these services will be
19 enhanced through the adoption of an approach that allows communities to

1 prioritize and coordinate services to meet their local needs. The
2 legislature further finds that the most successful programs for
3 reaching and working with at-risk families and children treat
4 individuals' problems in the context of the family, offer a broad
5 spectrum of services, are flexible in the use of program resources, and
6 use staff who are trained in crossing traditional program categories in
7 order to broker services necessary to fully meet a family's needs.

8 The legislature further finds that eligibility criteria,
9 expenditure restrictions, and reporting requirements of state and
10 federal categorical programs often create barriers toward the effective
11 use of resources for addressing the multiple problems of at-risk
12 families and children.

13 The legislature also finds that research has shown that
14 interventions designed to deter juvenile violence and delinquency are
15 cost-effective and compare favorably with the cost of detention.

16 The purposes of this chapter are: (1) To modify public policy and
17 programs to empower communities to support and respond to the needs of
18 individual families and children ~~((and))~~; (2) to improve the
19 responsiveness of services for children and families at risk by
20 facilitating greater coordination and flexibility in the use of funds
21 by state and local service agencies; and (3) to develop a program to
22 fund research-based prevention and early intervention programs
23 targeting youth and their families who have not yet entered the
24 juvenile justice system.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The sum of five million dollars, or as much
26 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the general fund to
27 the family policy council for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, to
28 carry out the purposes of this act.

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