
SENATE BILL 5836

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Long, Haugen, Winsley, Zarelli, Wojahn, Thibaudeau, Rasmussen and Oke

Read first time 02/11/1999. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to foster parents; amending RCW 74.14B.080;
2 creating new sections; making appropriations; providing an effective
3 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that Washington
6 state is experiencing a significant shortage of quality foster homes
7 and that the majority of children entering the system are difficult to
8 place due to their complex needs. The legislature intends to provide
9 additional assistance to those families willing to serve as foster
10 parents.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The United States department of agriculture
12 issued a report that shows the current foster parent reimbursement rate
13 of four hundred nine dollars per month per child represents forty-three
14 percent of the actual cost of providing such care. The department of
15 social and health services shall increase the basic reimbursement rate
16 for foster children by three dollars per child per day and shall pay a
17 two hundred dollar per year per foster child clothing allowance. The

1 department shall also annually review how the basic foster care rates
2 meet the need for providing such care.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.14B.080 and 1991 c 283 s 2 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, the secretary of
6 social and health services shall provide liability insurance to foster
7 parents licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW. The coverage shall be for
8 personal injury and property damage caused by foster parents or foster
9 children that occurred while the children were in foster care. Such
10 insurance shall cover acts of ordinary negligence but shall not cover
11 illegal conduct or bad faith acts taken by foster parents in providing
12 foster care. Moneys paid from liability insurance for any claim are
13 limited to the amount by which the claim exceeds the amount available
14 to the claimant from any valid and collectible liability insurance.
15 The liability insurance provided under this section shall reimburse
16 foster parents for the replacement value of the item damaged or
17 destroyed.

18 (2) The secretary of social and health services may purchase the
19 insurance required in subsection (1) of this section or may choose a
20 self-insurance method. The total moneys expended pursuant to this
21 authorization shall not exceed (~~five hundred thousand~~) one million
22 dollars per biennium. If the secretary elects a method of self-
23 insurance, the expenditure shall include all administrative and staff
24 costs. If the secretary elects a method of self-insurance, he or she
25 may, by rule, place a limit on the maximum amount to be paid on each
26 claim.

27 (3) Nothing in this section or RCW 4.24.590 is intended to modify
28 the foster parent reimbursement plan in place on July 1, 1991.

29 (4) The liability insurance program shall be available by July 1,
30 1991.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Foster parents are required to complete
32 first aid/CPR and HIV/AIDS training to become licensed. The cost of
33 this mandatory training is a financial barrier for some people
34 considering becoming foster parents. The department of social and
35 health services shall provide all new and current foster parents with
36 first aid/CPR and HIV/AIDS training.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of fifteen million three hundred
2 thirty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
3 appropriated from the general fund to the department of social and
4 health services for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, to carry out
5 the purposes of section 2 of this act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The sum of two hundred ninety thousand
7 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from
8 the general fund to the department of social and health services for
9 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, to carry out the purposes of
10 section 3 of this act.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The sum of one hundred seventy-five thousand
12 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from
13 the general fund to the department of social and health services for
14 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, to carry out the purposes of
15 section 4 of this act.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
18 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
19 July 1, 1999.

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