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SENATE BILL 6386

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, Hargrove, Swecker, Brown, Patterson, Sheahan, Morton, Long, Costa and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/14/2000. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to funds appropriated for representation of  
2 indigent parents and children; and amending RCW 2.70.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 2.70.020 and 1996 c 221 s 3 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 The director, under the supervision and direction of the advisory  
7 committee, shall:

8 (1) Administer all criminal appellate indigent defense services;

9 (2) Submit a biennial budget for all costs related to state  
10 appellate indigent defense;

11 (3) Establish administrative procedures, standards, and guidelines  
12 for the program including a cost-efficient system that provides for  
13 recovery of costs;

14 (4) Recommend criteria and standards for determining and verifying  
15 indigency. In recommending criteria for determining indigency, the  
16 director shall compile and review the indigency standards used by other  
17 state agencies and shall periodically submit the compilation and report  
18 to the legislature on the appropriateness and consistency of such  
19 standards;

1 (5) Collect information regarding indigency cases funded by the  
2 state and report annually to the legislature and the supreme court;  
3 (6) Coordinate with the supreme court and the judges of each  
4 division of the court of appeals to determine how attorney services  
5 should be provided;  
6 (7) Administer and distribute funds appropriated for representation  
7 of indigent parents and children. Spending priorities shall include:  
8 (a) Development of uniform tracking of indigent parent and children  
9 cases and funding amounts state-wide;  
10 (b) Efforts to reduce delays and continuances in dependency and  
11 termination cases;  
12 (c) Ensuring parents, guardians and legal custodians are screened  
13 for indigency pursuant to chapter 10.101 RCW;  
14 (d) Methods for establishing paternity among possible fathers at  
15 the earliest possible date when paternity is an issue;  
16 (e) Setting salary levels for dependency and termination defense  
17 counsel that attracts competent, skilled counsel;  
18 (f) Retention of sufficient counsel to maintain reasonable  
19 caseloads;  
20 (g) Making funds available for necessary support staff, defense  
21 experts, dependency and termination defense counsel, and investigators;  
22 (h) Development and enforcement of standards of practice for  
23 defense counsel; and  
24 (i) Training for dependency and termination defense counsel.  
25 The office of public defense shall not provide direct  
26 representation of clients.

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