

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1397**

Chapter 144, Laws of 2002

57th Legislature  
2002 Regular Session

KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/13/02

Passed by the House March 9, 2002  
Yeas 94 Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP  
**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate March 5, 2002  
Yeas 45 Nays 0

BRAD OWEN  
**President of the Senate**

Approved March 26, 2002

GARY LOCKE  
**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Cynthia Zehnder, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1397** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

CYNTHIA ZEHNDER  
**Chief Clerk**

FILED

March 26, 2002 - 9:19 a.m.

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1397**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2002 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      57th Legislature                      2002 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Tokuda, Boldt, Kagi, Benson, Kenney, Cody, Schual-Berke and Santos)

Read first time 02/04/2002. Referred to Committee on .

1            AN ACT Relating to children placed in the care of relatives; and  
2 creating new sections.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that relatives  
5 increasingly are assuming the responsibility for raising the children  
6 of their loved ones. The parents of these children are unable to  
7 fulfill this responsibility themselves because of various and complex  
8 reasons.

9            The legislature recognizes that these kinship caregivers perform a  
10 vital function in our society by providing homes for children who would  
11 otherwise be at risk of foster care placement. These homes offer  
12 stability to children in crisis and enhance family reunification.  
13 Outcome data shows that children in the care of relatives are less  
14 likely to enter state custody, and most of these arrangements do not  
15 require intensive supervision of the placement by the courts or by the  
16 department of social and health services. The legislature recognizes  
17 that kinship care is a legitimate and important component in the  
18 spectrum of out-of-home placements available to children in need.

1 The legislature recognizes that these kinship caregivers face many  
2 difficulties and need assistance to support the health and well-being  
3 of the children they care for. These needs include, but are not  
4 limited to, legal assistance, respite care services, financial  
5 assistance, counseling, and other supportive services.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Within existing resources, the  
7 department of social and health services shall convene a kinship  
8 caregivers working group subsequent to the release in June 2002 of the  
9 kinship caregivers study being conducted by the Washington state  
10 institute for public policy. The working group shall comprise:

- 11 (a) The children's administration;
- 12 (b) The aging and adult services administration;
- 13 (c) The economic services administration;
- 14 (d) Kinship caregivers; and
- 15 (e) Other stakeholders, such as the grandparents' coalition.

16 (2) The kinship caregivers working group shall:

17 (a) Review the Washington state institute for public policy kinship  
18 caregivers study;

19 (b) Develop a briefing for the legislature that identifies and  
20 prioritizes:

21 (i) The policy issues to be considered in making kinship care a  
22 robust component of the out-of-home placements spectrum including  
23 consideration of a financial means test;

24 (ii) The federal and state statutes associated with these policy  
25 issues; and

26 (iii) Options for addressing these policy issues; and

27 (c) Submit the briefing to the appropriate committees in the senate  
28 and house of representatives by November 1, 2002.

Passed the House March 9, 2002.

Passed the Senate March 5, 2002.

Approved by the Governor March 26, 2002.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 26, 2002.