

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6055

Chapter 255, Laws of 2001

57th Legislature
2001 Regular Session

FOSTER CARE--EVALUATION OF CHILDREN

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/22/01

Passed by the Senate April 17, 2001
YEAS 49 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN
President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 4, 2001
YEAS 92 NAYS 0

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

CLYDE BALLARD
**Speaker of the
House of Representatives**

Approved May 11, 2001

GARY LOCKE
Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Tony M. Cook, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6055** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

TONY M. COOK
Secretary

FILED

May 11, 2001 - 9:25 a.m.

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6055

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2001 Regular Session

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Long, Hargrove and Stevens)

READ FIRST TIME 02/26/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to evaluating children within the foster care
2 agency caseload; and amending RCW 74.14A.050.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.14A.050 and 2000 c 232 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The secretary shall:

7 (1)(a) Consult with relevant qualified professionals to develop a
8 set of minimum guidelines to be used for identifying all children who
9 are in a state-assisted support system, whether at-home or out-of-home,
10 who are likely to need long-term care or assistance, because they face
11 physical, emotional, medical, mental, or other long-term challenges;

12 (b) The guidelines must, at a minimum, consider the following
13 criteria for identifying children in need of long-term care or
14 assistance:

15 (i) Placement within the foster care system for two years or more;

16 (ii) Multiple foster care placements;

17 (iii) Repeated unsuccessful efforts to be placed with a permanent
18 adoptive family;

19 (iv) Chronic behavioral or educational problems;

1 (v) Repetitive criminal acts or offenses;

2 (vi) Failure to comply with court-ordered disciplinary actions and
3 other imposed guidelines of behavior, including drug and alcohol
4 rehabilitation; and

5 (vii) Chronic physical, emotional, medical, mental, or other
6 similar conditions necessitating long-term care or assistance;

7 (2) Develop programs that are necessary for the long-term care of
8 children and youth that are identified for the purposes of this
9 section. Programs must: (a) Effectively address the educational,
10 physical, emotional, mental, and medical needs of children and youth;
11 and (b) incorporate an array of family support options, to individual
12 needs and choices of the child and family. The programs must be ready
13 for implementation by January 1, 1995;

14 (3) Conduct an evaluation of all children currently within the
15 foster care agency caseload to identify those children who meet the
16 criteria set forth in this section. (~~The evaluation shall be~~
17 ~~completed by January 1, 1994.~~) All children entering the foster care
18 system (~~after January 1, 1994,~~) must be evaluated for identification
19 of long-term needs within thirty days of placement;

20 (4) As a result of the passage of chapter 232, Laws of 2000, the
21 department is conducting a pilot project to do a comparative analysis
22 of a variety of assessment instruments to determine the most effective
23 tools and methods for evaluation of children. The pilot project may
24 extend through August 31, 2001. The department shall report to the
25 appropriate committees in the senate and house of representatives by
26 September 30, 2001, on the results of the pilot project. The
27 department shall select an assessment instrument that can be
28 implemented within available resources. The department shall complete
29 statewide implementation by December 31, 2001. The department shall
30 report to the appropriate committees in the senate and house of
31 representatives on how the use of the selected assessment instrument
32 has affected department policies, by no later than December 31, 2002,
33 December 31, 2004, and December 31, 2006;

34 (5) Use the assessment tool developed pursuant to subsection (4) of
35 this section in making out-of-home placement decisions for children;

36 (6) By region, report to the legislature on the following using
37 aggregate data every six months beginning December 31, 2000:

38 (a) The number of children evaluated during the first thirty days
39 of placement as required in subsection (3) of this section;

1 (b) The tool or tools used to evaluate children, including the
2 content of the tool and the method by which the tool was validated;

3 (c) The findings from the evaluation regarding the children's
4 needs;

5 (d) How the department used the results of the evaluation to
6 provide services to the foster child to meet his or her needs; and

7 (e) Whether and how the evaluation results assisted the department
8 in providing appropriate services to the child, matching the child with
9 an appropriate care provider early on in the child's placement and
10 achieving the child's permanency plan in a timely fashion((-));

11 ((+5+)) (7) Each region of the department shall make the
12 appropriate number of referrals to the foster care assessment program
13 to ensure that the services offered by the program are used to the
14 extent funded pursuant to the department's contract with the program.
15 The department shall report to the legislature by November 30, 2000, on
16 the number of referrals, by region, to the foster care assessment
17 program. If the regions are not referring an adequate number of cases
18 to the program, the department shall include in its report an
19 explanation of what action it is or has taken to ensure that the
20 referrals are adequate((-));

21 ((+6+)) (8) The department shall report to the legislature by
22 December 15, 2000, on how it will use the foster care assessment
23 program model to assess children as they enter out-of-home care((-));

24 ((+7+)) (9) The department is to accomplish the tasks listed in
25 subsections (4) through ((+6+)) (8) of this section within existing
26 resources((-));

27 ((+8+)) (10) Study and develop a comprehensive plan for the
28 evaluation and identification of all children and youth in need of
29 long-term care or assistance, including, but not limited to, the
30 mentally ill, developmentally disabled, medically fragile, seriously
31 emotionally or behaviorally disabled, and physically impaired;

32 ((+9+)) (11) Study and develop a plan for the children and youth in
33 need of long-term care or assistance to ensure the coordination of
34 services between the department's divisions and between other state
35 agencies who are involved with the child or youth;

36 ((+10+)) (12) Study and develop guidelines for transitional
37 services, between long-term care programs, based on the person's age or
38 mental, physical, emotional, or medical condition; and

1 (~~(11)~~) (13) Study and develop a statutory proposal for the
2 emancipation of minors.

Passed the Senate April 17, 2001.

Passed the House April 4, 2001.

Approved by the Governor May 11, 2001.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 11, 2001.