

2988-S

Sponsor(s): House Committee on Children & Family Services
(originally sponsored by Representatives Boldt, Clements, Pearson,
Bailey and McMahan)

Brief Description: Protecting the rights of foster parents.

HB 2988-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Establishes provisions to protect the rights of foster parents.

Provides that a foster parent who believes that a department employee has retaliated against the foster parent or in any other manner discriminated against the foster parent because: (1) The foster parent made a complaint with the office of the family and children's ombudsman, the attorney general, law enforcement agencies, or the department, provided information, or otherwise cooperated with the investigation of such a complaint;

(2) The foster parent has caused to be instituted any proceedings under or related to Title 13 RCW;

(3) The foster parent has testified or is about to testify in any proceedings under or related to Title 13 RCW;

(4) The foster parent has advocated for services on behalf of the foster child;

(5) The foster parent has sought to adopt a foster child in the foster parent's care; or

(6) The foster parent has discussed or consulted with anyone concerning the foster parent's rights under this chapter or chapter 74.15 or 13.34 RCW, may file a complaint with the office of the family and children's ombudsman.

Requires the office of the family and children's ombudsman to include its recommendations regarding complaints filed under this section in its annual report pursuant to RCW 43.06A.030. The office of the family and children's ombudsman shall identify trends which may indicate a need to improve relations between the department and foster parents.

Requires the department to develop procedures for responding to recommendations of the office of the family and children's ombudsman as a result of any and all complaints filed by foster parents under this act.