

SHB 2156 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Human Services & Corrections

ADOPTED 04/06/2005

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) A joint task force on child safety for  
4 children in child protective services or child welfare services is  
5 established. The joint task force shall consist of the following  
6 members:

7 (a) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate,  
8 appointed by the president of the senate;

9 (b) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house  
10 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of  
11 representatives;

12 (c) A representative from the Washington council for prevention of  
13 child abuse and neglect;

14 (d) One representative from each of the four most recent child  
15 fatality review committees;

16 (e) The secretary of the department of social and health services  
17 or the secretary's designee;

18 (f) The executive director of the office of public defense or the  
19 executive director's designee;

20 (g) The director of the office of family and children's ombudsman  
21 or the director's designee;

22 (h) A representative of the Washington association of sheriffs and  
23 police chiefs;

24 (i) The secretary of the department of health or the secretary's  
25 designee;

26 (j) A representative of the office of attorney general;

27 (k) A representative of the superior court judges association;

28 (l) One representative each from social workers for child  
29 protective services and social workers for child welfare services,

1 appointed by the secretary of the department of social and health  
2 services; and

3 (m) The following members, jointly appointed by the speaker of the  
4 house of representatives and the president of the senate:

5 (i) A representative from a statewide foster parents association  
6 and a foster parent not affiliated with the statewide foster parents  
7 association;

8 (ii) A representative from a statewide birth parent organization or  
9 a birth parent who has been involved in the child welfare system; and

10 (iii) One representative each from two different organizations that  
11 primarily provide services to children and families involved with the  
12 child welfare system.

13 (2) Two of the legislative members shall serve as cochairs of the  
14 task force.

15 (3) The task force shall review and make recommendations to the  
16 legislature and the governor on improving the health, safety, and  
17 welfare of Washington children in child protective services or child  
18 welfare services. In preparing the recommendations, the committee  
19 shall, at a minimum, review the following issues:

20 (a) State and federal statutes regarding child safety, placement,  
21 removal from the home, termination of parental rights, and  
22 reunification with parents;

23 (b) Current and ongoing department of social and health services  
24 work groups or work plans regarding child safety, placement, removal  
25 from the home, termination of parental rights, and reunification with  
26 parents;

27 (c) The purpose and value of child protection teams and determine  
28 whether any changes should be made;

29 (d) Best practices regarding children removed from parents at birth  
30 and placed in out-of-home care, transition services for families with  
31 children in out-of-home placement for an extended period of time, and  
32 standards for return to home placement when a child has been placed  
33 out-of-home including situations where a child has been placed out-of-  
34 home and returned to home multiple times;

35 (e) The training that is offered to social workers regarding child  
36 development and determine whether any changes should be made;

37 (f) Best practices regarding information sharing between case

1 workers, supervisors, and other relevant participants in placement  
2 decisions;

3 (g) Best practices for assessing and addressing chemical dependency  
4 issues of parents;

5 (h) The effectiveness of current home-based service providers  
6 currently used and determine whether any changes should be made;

7 (i) Best practices addressing family cultural and tribal issues and  
8 the role, if any, of social worker training or bias in safety  
9 assessment and placement decisions; and

10 (j) Other issues deemed relevant to improving child safety  
11 outcomes.

12 (4) The task force, where feasible, may consult with individuals  
13 from the public and private sector.

14 (5) The task force shall use legislative facilities and staff from  
15 senate committee services and the house office of program research.

16 (6) The task force shall report its preliminary findings and  
17 recommendations to the legislature by December 31, 2005, and a final  
18 report on its findings and recommendations by September 1, 2006.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act expires October 1, 2006.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
21 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
22 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
23 immediately."

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24 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "rights;" strike the  
25 remainder of the title and insert "creating a new section; providing an  
26 expiration date; and declaring an emergency."

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