
HOUSE BILL 1280

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Pettigrew, Hinkle, Kagi, Walsh, Schual-Berke, McDonald, Clibborn, Dickerson, P. Sullivan, Roach, Orcutt, Darneille, Morrell, Wallace and Santos

Read first time 01/19/2005. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to the kinship care oversight committee; and adding
2 a new section to chapter 74.13 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Within existing resources, the department shall establish an
7 oversight committee to monitor, guide, and report on kinship care
8 recommendations and implementation activities. The committee shall:

9 (a) Draft a kinship care definition that is restricted to persons
10 related by blood or marriage, including marriages that have been
11 dissolved, or for a minor defined as an "Indian child" under the
12 federal Indian child welfare act (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901 et seq.), the
13 definition of "extended family member" under the federal Indian child
14 welfare act, and a set of principles. If the committee concludes that
15 one or more programs or services would be more efficiently and
16 effectively delivered under a different definition of kin, it shall
17 state what definition is needed, and identify the program or service in
18 the report. It shall also provide evidence of how the program or

1 service will be more efficiently and effectively delivered under the
2 different definition. The department shall not adopt rules or policies
3 changing the definition of kin without authorizing legislation;

4 (b) Monitor and provide consultation on the implementation of
5 recommendations contained in the 2002 kinship care report, including
6 but not limited to the recommendations relating to legal and respite
7 care services and resources;

8 (c) Partner with nonprofit organizations and private sector
9 businesses to guide a public education awareness campaign;

10 (d) Assist with developing future recommendations on kinship care
11 issues; and

12 (e) The department shall consult with the oversight committee on
13 its efforts to better collaborate and coordinate services to benefit
14 kinship care families.

15 (2) The oversight committee must consist of a minimum of thirty
16 percent kinship caregivers, who shall represent a diversity of kinship
17 families. Statewide representation with geographic, ethnic, and gender
18 diversity is required. Other members shall include representatives of
19 the department, representatives of relevant state agencies,
20 representatives of the private nonprofit and business sectors, child
21 advocates, representatives of Washington state Indian tribes as defined
22 under the federal Indian welfare act (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901 et seq.), and
23 representatives of the legal or judicial field. Birth parents, foster
24 parents, and others who have an interest in these issues may also be
25 included.

26 (3) To the extent funding is available, the department may
27 reimburse nondepartmental members of the oversight committee for costs
28 incurred in participating in the meetings of the oversight committee.

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