
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2996

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Walsh, Haler, Kagi, Roberts, Hankins and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to trauma mitigation for children; adding a new
2 section to chapter 74.13 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that certain groups of
6 children have dramatically higher rates of exposure to trauma,
7 including children who have been abused or neglected, children in
8 foster care, and children who witness domestic violence. The
9 legislature also finds that there is a growing number of untreated
10 trauma-affected children exhibiting severe stress reactions. When left
11 untreated, the psychological distress caused by trauma in infancy and
12 early childhood compromises healthy brain development and may result in
13 a lifetime of lost potential. The legislature further finds that over
14 the past two decades, significant theoretical, empirical, and clinical
15 developments have emerged to guide practitioners in effectively
16 treating trauma-exposed children. The legislature also finds that safe
17 harbor crisis nursery provides a model for group receiving homes where
18 children who have been removed from their home are cared for in a
19 family home-like setting that reduces further trauma by allowing

1 sibling groups to remain together while future placement plans are
2 being made. The legislature intends to create a pilot program to
3 demonstrate the effectiveness of trauma mitigation strategies for the
4 treatment of trauma-exposed children.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The trauma mitigation for children pilot program is
8 established. The pilot program shall be administered jointly by the
9 children's administration and the division of mental health, within the
10 department of social and health services. The pilot program shall
11 promote evidence-based trauma mitigation interventions for children who
12 are removed from their home by child protective services.

13 (2) The pilot program shall provide a structure for:

14 (a) Implementing a regional trauma mitigation early intervention
15 program to reduce the effects on children of exposure to trauma through
16 the use of evidence-based practice, including trauma-focused cognitive
17 behavioral therapy;

18 (b) Creating a community-based response to the impacts of trauma on
19 children; and

20 (c) Identifying and strengthening local resources for
21 developmentally appropriate services for children and families who have
22 experienced trauma.

23 (3) The pilot program shall be implemented at safe harbor crisis
24 nursery located in Kennewick, Washington. One additional site may be
25 selected on the basis of need as determined by:

26 (a) The relative availability or unavailability of comparable
27 services locally; and

28 (b) The relative at-risk population within the community.

29 (4) The pilot program shall consist of the following services for
30 children:

31 (a) For children birth to six years of age, and sibling groups with
32 children under six years of age and siblings through age twelve,
33 twenty-four hour group receiving care for a maximum of seven days.
34 Receiving care under this subsection (4)(a) shall be designed to assist
35 children in their transition to foster care;

36 (b) For children not enrolled in school, post-trauma child day care
37 for a maximum of thirty days after transition from group receiving care

1 to foster care. Child day care under this subsection (4)(b) includes
2 play therapy, art therapy, music therapy, and physical activities as
3 developmentally appropriate;

4 (c) For school age siblings, post-trauma interventions once per
5 week for a maximum of thirty days after transition from group receiving
6 care to foster care; and

7 (d) Follow-up assessments of each child at the time of exit, and at
8 six months and one year after exit, from the day care program or the
9 weekly intervention program.

10 (5) The pilot program shall also provide for the dissemination of
11 information and training for professionals, parents, foster parents,
12 and caregivers regarding:

13 (a) The long-term impacts of exposure to trauma; and

14 (b) Evidence-based practices, strategies, and resources for
15 mitigating the impact of exposure to trauma.

16 (6) In collaboration with safe harbor crisis nursery, the
17 children's administration and the division of mental health shall
18 report to the legislature regarding the pilot program not later than
19 September 1, 2009.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires December 31, 2009.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
22 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
23 June 30, 2006, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
24 void.

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