

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2156

59th Legislature
2005 Regular Session

Passed by the House April 18, 2005
Yeas 97 Nays 0

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 19, 2005
Yeas 48 Nays 0

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2156** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2156

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2005 Regular Session

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Hinkle, Kagi, Nixon, Pettigrew, McDonald, Dickerson, Pearson, Springer, Rodne and Williams)

READ FIRST TIME 03/04/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to dependency and termination of parental rights;
2 creating a new section; providing an expiration date; and declaring an
3 emergency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (h) A representative of the Washington association of sheriffs and
6 police chiefs;

7 (i) The secretary of the department of health or the secretary's
8 designee;

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

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

11 (l) One representative each from social workers for child
12 protective services and social workers for child welfare services,
13 appointed by the secretary of the department of social and health
14 services; and

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

17 (i) A representative from a statewide foster parents association
18 and a foster parent not affiliated with the statewide foster parents
19 association;

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

22 (iii) Two representatives of Washington state Indian tribes as
23 defined under the federal Indian welfare act (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1901 et
24 seq.); and

25 (iv) One representative each from two different organizations that
26 primarily provide services to children and families involved with the
27 child welfare system.

28 (2) Two of the legislative members shall serve as cochairs of the
29 task force.

30 (3) The task force shall review and make recommendations to the
31 legislature and the governor on improving the health, safety, and
32 welfare of Washington children in child protective services or child
33 welfare services. In preparing the recommendations, the committee
34 shall, at a minimum, review the following issues:

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

1 (b) Current and ongoing department of social and health services
2 work groups or work plans regarding child safety, placement, removal
3 from the home, termination of parental rights, and reunification with
4 parents;

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

7 (d) Best practices regarding children removed from parents at birth
8 and placed in out-of-home care, transition services for families with
9 children in out-of-home placement for an extended period of time, and
10 standards for return to home placement when a child has been placed
11 out-of-home including situations where a child has been placed out-of-
12 home and returned to home multiple times;

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

15 (f) Best practices regarding sharing of accurate, complete, and
16 relevant medical, mental health, and substance abuse information
17 between case workers, supervisors, the courts, child protection teams,
18 counsel, guardians, parents, and other relevant participants in child
19 placement decisions;

20 (g) Best practices for assessing and addressing chemical dependency
21 issues of parents;

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

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

27 (j) Other issues deemed relevant to improving child safety
28 outcomes.

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

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

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

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

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
4 immediately.

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