
SENATE BILL 5583

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Senators Regala, Hargrove, McAuliffe, Stevens, Carrell, Kline, Rasmussen and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/28/2005. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to older children who are victims of abuse or
2 neglect; adding a new section to chapter 26.44 RCW; and declaring an
3 emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 26.44 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall develop a curriculum designed to train the
8 staff of the department's children's administration on how to screen
9 and respond to referrals to child protective services when those
10 referrals may involve victims of abuse or neglect between the ages of
11 eleven and eighteen. At a minimum, the curriculum developed pursuant
12 to this section shall include:

13 (a) Review of relevant laws and regulations, including the
14 requirement that the department investigate complaints if a parent's or
15 caretaker's actions result in serious physical or emotional harm or
16 present an imminent risk of serious harm to any person under eighteen;

17 (b) Review of policies of the department's children's
18 administration that require assessment and screening of abuse and
19 neglect referrals on the basis of risk and not age;

1 (c) Explanation of safety assessment and risk assessment models;
2 (d) Case studies of situations in which the department has received
3 reports of alleged abuse or neglect of older children and adolescents;
4 (e) Discussion of best practices in screening and responding to
5 referrals involving older children and adolescents; and

6 (f) Discussion of how abuse and neglect referrals related to
7 adolescents are investigated and when law enforcement must be notified.

8 (2) As it develops its curriculum pursuant to this section, the
9 department shall request that the office of the family and children's
10 ombudsman review and comment on its proposed training materials. The
11 department shall consider the comments and recommendations of the
12 office of the family and children's ombudsman as it develops the
13 curriculum required by this section.

14 (3) The department shall complete the curriculum materials required
15 by this section no later than April 30, 2005.

16 (4) The department shall use the curriculum required by this
17 section to train all staff employed by the children's administration by
18 August 31, 2005.

19 (5) The department shall include the curriculum in its training of
20 all new employees of children's administration.

21 (6) The department shall keep a record of all of the employees who
22 have attended the training required by this section.

23 (7) The department shall review all screening decisions by child
24 protective services related to children between the ages of eleven and
25 eighteen on a quarterly basis through December 31, 2006. The
26 department shall use the results of the quarterly reviews required by
27 this section to identify employees who are not assessing and screening
28 referrals pursuant to the law, regulations, and department policy. The
29 results of the quarterly screening may also be used to improve the
30 curriculum required by this section.

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

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