
HOUSE BILL 2252

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Pettigrew, Halder, Walsh, Hinkle, Dickerson,
Roberts, Kenney and Ormsby

Read first time 02/14/2007. Referred to Committee on Early Learning
& Children's Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to permanency and postadoption services; adding a
2 new section to chapter 74.13 RCW; creating a new section; and providing
3 an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the impact of
6 children's histories of abuse and neglect and aspects of their foster
7 care experiences significantly impact the postpermanency needs of
8 adopted children. The number of children being adopted from the foster
9 care system has increased over the last decade. Policy changes also
10 have resulted in an increased number of children who are eligible for
11 adoption but who have not yet been adopted. The legislature also finds
12 that adoption disruption occurs at a rate of approximately ten to
13 sixteen percent of adoptions. Risk of adoptions being terminated is
14 greatest within the first years of the adoption and for adoptions
15 involving older children. Risk factors associated with adoption
16 disruption and termination include a variety of child-related factors
17 and parent-related factors. The legislature intends to establish a
18 pilot program of well-coordinated and comprehensive postadoption and

1 postpermanency services to children and families in order to reduce
2 adoption disruptions and terminations and to increase the number of
3 potential adoptive families.

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

6 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
7 specific purpose, the department of social and health services shall
8 establish a postadoption services pilot program to provide community-
9 based and coordinated postadoption supports. The pilot program shall
10 be designed to gather data regarding the effectiveness of the
11 coordination and delivery of services in achieving the intent of this
12 act.

13 (2) The department shall contract with community-based
14 organizations in two or more pilot sites in the state to deliver a
15 combination of intensive and less intensive services to children who
16 have been adopted out of the foster care system and their adoptive
17 families. Intensive services include, but are not limited to: Child
18 assessment and assistance with behavior management; advocacy and case
19 management; parent-to-parent mentoring and support; planned respite;
20 recreational enrichment; problem solving; and crisis response. Less
21 intensive services include, but are not limited to: Parent education
22 classes; and information and referral.

23 (3) Services to be coordinated through each pilot site include
24 interventions and supports to prevent disruption of adoptive
25 placements, improve parent-child relationships, and strengthen family
26 functioning, including but not limited to the following:

27 (a) Mental health services, such as appropriate periodic
28 assessments and review of previous diagnoses, and appropriate
29 therapeutic interventions and skills for children and caregivers;

30 (b) Support services, such as support groups, family resource
31 specialists, and planned respite care.

32 (4) By January 2, 2008, the department shall provide the
33 legislature with a progress report on implementation, including the
34 location of pilot sites. Annually, through January 2011, the
35 department shall brief the legislature on the operation of the pilot
36 program, including the data regarding the effectiveness of the

1 coordination and delivery of services in reducing adoption disruptions
2 and terminations and increasing the number of potential adoptive
3 families.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act expires January 1, 2012.

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