
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5830

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Kauffman, Brown, Rasmussen, Keiser, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe and Shin)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to home visitation services for families; amending
2 RCW 43.121.015; adding new sections to chapter 43.121 RCW; and
3 repealing RCW 43.70.530.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.121 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds that the years from birth to three are
8 critical in building the social, emotional, and cognitive developmental
9 foundations of a young child. Research into the brain development of
10 young children reveals that children are born learning. The
11 legislature also finds that the farther behind children are in their
12 social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development, the more
13 difficult it will be for them to catch up. The legislature further
14 finds that a significant number of children age birth to five years are
15 born with two or more of the following risk factors and have a greater
16 chance of failure in school and beyond: Poverty; single or no parent;
17 no parent employed full time or full year; all parents with disability;
18 mother without a high school degree; and no parent fluent in English.
19 The legislature finds that parents and children involved in home

1 visitation programs exhibit better birth outcomes, enhanced parent and
2 child interactions, more efficient use of health care services,
3 enhanced child development, and early detection of developmental
4 delays, as well as reduced welfare dependence, higher rates of school
5 completion and job retention, reduction in frequency and severity of
6 maltreatment, and higher rates of school graduation. The legislature
7 intends to promote the use of voluntary home visitation services to
8 families at high risk of child abuse or neglect as an early
9 intervention strategy to alleviate the effect risk factors have on
10 child development.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.121.015 and 1988 c 278 s 4 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings
14 indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

15 (1) "Child" means an unmarried person who is under eighteen years
16 of age.

17 (2) "Council" means the Washington council for the prevention of
18 child abuse and neglect.

19 (3) "Evidence-based" means a program or practice that has had
20 multiple site random controlled trials across heterogeneous populations
21 demonstrating that the program or practice is effective for the
22 population.

23 (4) "Home visitation" means providing services in the permanent or
24 temporary residence, or in other familiar surroundings, of the family
25 receiving such services.

26 (5) "Primary prevention" of child abuse and neglect means any
27 effort designed to inhibit or preclude the initial occurrence of child
28 abuse and neglect, both by the promotion of positive parenting and
29 family interaction, and the remediation of factors linked to causes of
30 child maltreatment.

31 ((+4)) (6) "Research-based" means a program or practice that has
32 some research demonstrating effectiveness, but that does not yet meet
33 the standard of evidence-based practices.

34 (7) "Secondary prevention" means services and programs that
35 identify and assist families under such stress that abuse or neglect is
36 likely or families display symptoms associated with child abuse or
37 neglect.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.121 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 Within available funds, the council shall fund evidence-based and
4 research-based programs for home visitation for improving parenting
5 skills and outcomes for children. Home visitation programs must be
6 voluntary and must be directed at families at high risk of child abuse
7 and neglect.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.70.530 (Home visitor program) and
9 1998 c 245 s 75 & 1993 c 179 s 2 are each repealed.

--- END ---