

HB 1926-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Amends RCW 74.13.031 relating to the duties of the department of social and health services.

Requires the department to consult at least quarterly with licensed foster parents and any association or group of licensed foster parents for the purpose of receiving information and comment regarding how the department is performing the duties and meeting the obligations specified in RCW 74.13.031, 74.13.250, and 74.13.320 regarding the recruitment of foster homes, reducing foster parent turnover rates, providing effective training for foster parents, and administering a coordinated and comprehensive plan that strengthens services for the protection of children. Consultation shall occur at the regional and statewide levels.

Requires the department of social and health services to consult with licensed foster parents, including any association or group of licensed foster parents, and with child welfare professionals from the public, private, and academic communities regarding the need for and the feasibility of creating tiered classifications for foster parent licensing, including a professional foster parent classification. The department shall report its recommendations to the appropriate committees of the legislature by January 1, 2008.