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SENATE BILL 5577

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Senators Jarrett, Rockefeller, Hargrove, and Regala

Read first time 01/27/09. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1            AN ACT Relating to mandatory forms for use in dependency matters;  
2 and adding a new section to chapter 13.34 RCW.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 13.34 RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6            (1) The administrative office of the courts shall develop standard  
7 court forms and format rules for mandatory use by parties in dependency  
8 matters commenced under this chapter or chapter 26.44 RCW. Forms shall  
9 be developed not later than October 1, 2009, and the mandatory use  
10 requirement shall be effective January 1, 2010. The administrative  
11 office of the courts has continuing responsibility to develop and  
12 revise mandatory forms and format rules as appropriate.

13            (2) According to rules established by the administrative office of  
14 the courts, a party may delete unnecessary portions of the forms and  
15 may supplement the mandatory forms with additional material.

16            (3) Failure by a party to use the mandatory forms or follow the  
17 format rules shall not be a reason to dismiss a case, refuse a filing,  
18 or strike a pleading. The court may, however, require the party to

1 submit a corrected pleading and may impose terms payable to the  
2 opposing party or payable to the court, or both.

3 (4) The administrative office of the courts shall distribute a  
4 master copy of the mandatory forms to all county court clerks. Upon  
5 request, the administrative office of the courts and county clerks must  
6 distribute the forms to the public and may charge for the cost of  
7 production and distribution of the forms. Private vendors also may  
8 distribute the forms. Distribution of forms may be in printed or  
9 electronic form.

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