
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6469

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Kauffman, Regala, Hargrove, Hobbs, Gordon, Keiser, McAuliffe, and Kline)

READ FIRST TIME 02/04/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to filling vacancies on the racial
2 disproportionality advisory committee; amending RCW 74.13.096; and
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.13.096 and 2009 c 520 s 63 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) The secretary shall convene an advisory committee to analyze
8 and make recommendations on the disproportionate representation of
9 children of color in Washington's child welfare system. The department
10 shall collaborate with the Washington institute for public policy and
11 private sector entities to develop a methodology for the advisory
12 committee to follow in conducting a baseline analysis of data from the
13 child welfare system to determine whether racial disproportionality and
14 racial disparity exist in this system. The Washington institute for
15 public policy shall serve as technical staff for the advisory
16 committee. In determining whether racial disproportionality or racial
17 disparity exists, the committee shall utilize existing research and
18 evaluations conducted within Washington state, nationally, and in other

1 states and localities that have similarly analyzed the prevalence of
2 racial disproportionality and disparity in child welfare.

3 (2) At a minimum, the advisory committee shall examine and analyze:

4 (a) The level of involvement of children of color at each stage in the
5 state's child welfare system, including the points of entry and exit,
6 and each point at which a treatment decision is made; (b) the number of
7 children of color in low-income or single-parent families involved in
8 the state's child welfare system; (c) the family structures of families
9 involved in the state's child welfare system; and (d) the outcomes for
10 children in the existing child welfare system. This analysis shall be
11 disaggregated by racial and ethnic group, and by geographic region.

12 (3) The committee of not more than fifteen individuals shall
13 consist of experts in social work, law, child welfare, psychology, or
14 related fields, at least two tribal representatives, a representative
15 of the governor's juvenile justice advisory committee, a representative
16 of a community-based organization involved with child welfare issues,
17 a representative of the department, a current or former foster care
18 youth, a current or former foster care parent, and a parent previously
19 involved with Washington's child welfare system. Committee members
20 shall be selected as follows: (a) Five members selected by the senate
21 majority leader; (b) five members selected by the speaker of the house
22 of representatives; and (c) five members selected by the secretary of
23 the department. The secretary, the senate majority leader, and the
24 speaker of the house of representatives shall coordinate appointments
25 to ensure the representation specified in this subsection is achieved.
26 In the event a member of the advisory committee resigns or otherwise
27 leaves the committee, the authority that initially appointed that
28 member shall appoint his or her successor. After the advisory
29 committee appointments are finalized, the committee shall select two
30 individuals to serve as cochairs of the committee, one of whom shall be
31 a representative from a nongovernmental entity.

32 (4) The secretary shall make reasonable efforts to seek public and
33 private funding for the advisory committee.

34 (5) Not later than June 1, 2008, the advisory committee created in
35 subsection (1) of this section shall report to the secretary of the
36 department on the results of the analysis. If the results of the
37 analysis indicate disproportionality or disparity exists for any racial
38 or ethnic group in any region of the state, the committee, in

1 conjunction with the secretary of the department, shall develop a plan
2 for remedying the disproportionality or disparity. The remediation
3 plan shall include: (a) Recommendations for administrative and
4 legislative actions related to appropriate programs and services to
5 reduce and eliminate disparities in the system and improve the long-
6 term outcomes for children of color who are served by the system; and
7 (b) performance measures for implementing the remediation plan. To the
8 extent possible and appropriate, the remediation plan shall be
9 developed to integrate the recommendations required in this subsection
10 with the department's existing compliance plans, training efforts, and
11 other practice improvement and reform initiatives in progress. The
12 advisory committee shall be responsible for ongoing evaluation of
13 current and prospective policies and procedures for their contribution
14 to or effect on racial disproportionality and disparity.

15 (6) Not later than December 1, 2008, the secretary shall report the
16 results of the analysis conducted under subsection (2) of this section
17 and shall describe the remediation plan required under subsection (5)
18 of this section to the appropriate committees of the legislature with
19 jurisdiction over policy and fiscal matters relating to children,
20 families, and human services. Beginning January 1, 2010, the secretary
21 shall report annually to the appropriate committees of the legislature
22 on the implementation of the remediation plan, including any measurable
23 progress made in reducing and eliminating racial disproportionality and
24 disparity in the state's child welfare system.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Section 1 of this act expires June 30, 2014.

--- END ---