H-1634.1

## SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1934

## State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By House Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives Pedersen, Nealey, Hope, Kagi, Johnson, Goodman, Hansen, Orwall, Pollet, Roberts, Appleton, Hunt, Maxwell, Ormsby, Jinkins, Green, Morrell, Carlyle, Seaquist, Haigh, Hudgins, Pettigrew, Tarleton, Sells, Smith, Reykdal, Sawyer, Morris, Dunshee, Magendanz, Hunter, Wylie, Liias, Fitzgibbon, Fagan, Upthegrove, Farrell, Takko, Ryu, Riccelli, Bergquist, Freeman, Habib, Van De Wege, Haler, Clibborn, Sullivan, Walsh, Tharinger, Moeller, Blake, Cody, Springer, Lytton, McCoy, Stanford, Moscoso, Fey, and Santos)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/13.

AN ACT Relating to granting all persons who have an ongoing and substantial relationship with a child, including but not limited to grandparents, the right to seek visitation with that child through the courts; amending RCW 26.10.160; adding a new chapter to Title 26 RCW; and repealing RCW 26.09.240.

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

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. (1) A person who is not the parent of the
child may petition for visitation with the child if the person has
established an ongoing and substantial relationship with the child.

10 (2) For the purposes of this chapter "parent" means a biological,11 adoptive, or adjudicated parent.

has established ongoing 12 (3) A person an and substantial 13 relationship with a child if the person and the child have had a relationship formed and sustained through interaction, companionship, 14 15 and mutuality of interest and affection, without expectation of 16 financial compensation, with substantial continuity for at least one year, and with a shared expectation of and desire for an ongoing 17 18 relationship. An ongoing and substantial relationship may not be

established solely on the basis of a relationship with the child that results from the person acting in a paid or volunteer service provider role, such as teacher, counselor, coach, or child care provider.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 2. (1) A petition for visitation under section
1 of this act must be filed in the county where the child primarily
resides.

7 (2) The petitioner may not file a petition for visitation more than8 once, unless:

9 (a) At least two years have passed since the final order issued on 10 the previous petition for visitation; and

(b) The petitioner shows there has been a substantial change in circumstances of the nonmoving party or the child based on facts that have arisen since, or facts that were unknown to the court at the time of, the order issued on the previous petition for visitation.

15 (3) The petitioner must file with the petition an affidavit 16 alleging that:

17 (a) A sufficient relationship with the child exists or existed18 before interference by the respondent; and

(b) The child would likely suffer harm or the substantial risk ofharm if visitation between the petitioner and child were not granted.

(4) The petitioner shall set forth facts in the affidavitsupporting the petitioner's requested order for visitation.

(5) The petitioner shall serve notice of the filing to each person having legal custody of, or court-ordered residential time with, the child. A person having legal custody or residential time may file an opposing affidavit.

(6) If, based on the petition and affidavits, the court finds that
it is more likely than not that visitation will be granted, the court
shall hold a hearing.

30 (7) The court may not enter any temporary orders to establish,31 enforce, or modify visitation under this section.

32 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 3. (1)(a) At a hearing pursuant to section 2(6) 33 of this act, the court shall enter an order granting visitation if it 34 finds that the child would likely suffer harm or the substantial risk 35 of harm if visitation between the petitioner and the child is not

1 granted and that granting visitation between the child and petitioner 2 is in the best interest of the child.

3 (b) An order granting visitation does not confer upon the person4 the rights and duties of a parent.

5 (2) In making its determination, the court shall consider the 6 respondent's reasons for denying visitation. It is presumed that a fit 7 parent's decision to deny visitation is in the best interest of the 8 child and does not create a likelihood of harm or a substantial risk of 9 harm to the child.

10 (3) To rebut the presumption, the petitioner must prove by clear 11 and convincing evidence that the child would likely suffer harm or the 12 substantial risk of harm if visitation between the petitioner and the 13 child were not granted.

14 (4) If the court finds that the petitioner has met the standard for rebutting the presumption, or if there is no presumption because no 15 parent has custody of the child, the court shall consider whether it is 16 17 in the best interest of the child to enter an order granting visitation. The petitioner must prove by clear and convincing evidence 18 19 that visitation is in the child's best interest. In determining whether it is in the best interest of the child, the court shall 20 21 consider the following, nonexclusive factors:

(a) The love, affection, and strength of the current relationship
between the child and the petitioner and how the relationship is
beneficial to the child;

25 (b) The length and quality of the prior relationship between the 26 child and the petitioner before the respondent denied visitation, 27 including the role performed by the petitioner and the emotional ties 28 that existed between the child and the petitioner;

29

(c) The relationship between the petitioner and the respondent;

30 (d) The nature and reason for the respondent's objection to 31 granting the petitioner visitation;

32 (e) The effect that granting visitation will have on the 33 relationship between the child and the respondent;

34 (f) The residential time-sharing arrangements between the parties35 having residential time with the child;

36 (g) The good faith of the petitioner and respondent;

(h) Any history of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse or neglectby the petitioner, or any history of physical, emotional, or sexual

1 abuse or neglect by a person residing with the petitioner if visitation 2 would involve contact between the child and the person with such 3 history;

4 (i) The child's reasonable preference, if the court considers the 5 child to be of sufficient age to express a preference; and

6 (j) Any other factor relevant to the child's best interest.

7 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 4. (1)(a) For the purposes of sections 1 8 through 3 of this act, the court shall, on motion of the respondent, 9 order the petitioner to pay a reasonable amount for costs and 10 reasonable attorneys' fees to the respondent in advance and prior to 11 any hearing, unless the court finds, considering the financial 12 resources of all parties, that it would be unjust to do so.

(b) Regardless of the financial resources of the parties, if the court finds that a petition for visitation was brought in bad faith or without reasonable basis in light of the requirements of sections 1 through 3 of this act, the court shall order the petitioner to pay a reasonable amount for costs and reasonable attorneys' fees to the respondent.

19 (2) If visitation is granted, the court shall order the petitioner20 to pay all transportation costs associated with visitation.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) A court may not modify or terminate an order granting visitation under section 3 of this act unless it finds, on the basis of facts that have arisen since the entry of the order or were unknown to the court at the time it entered the order, that a substantial change of circumstances has occurred in the circumstances of the child or nonmoving party and that modification or termination of the order is necessary for the best interest of the child.

(2) The petitioner must file a petition for modification ortermination in the county where the child primarily resides.

30 (3) The petitioner must file with the petition an affidavit 31 alleging that, on the basis of facts that have arisen since the entry 32 of the order or were unknown to the court at the time it entered the 33 order, there is a substantial change of circumstances of the child or 34 nonmoving party and that modification or termination of the order is 35 necessary for the best interest of the child. The petitioner shall set

1 forth facts in the affidavit supporting the petitioner's requested 2 order.

3 (4) The petitioner shall serve notice of the petition to each 4 person having legal custody of, or court-ordered residential time or 5 court-ordered visitation with, the child. A person having legal 6 custody or residential or visitation time may file an opposing 7 affidavit.

8 (5) If, based on the petition and affidavits, the court finds that 9 it is more likely than not that a modification or termination will be 10 granted, the court shall hold a hearing.

11 (6) The court may award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs to 12 either party.

13 Sec. 6. RCW 26.10.160 and 2011 c 89 s 7 are each amended to read 14 as follows:

(1) A parent not granted custody of the child is entitled to reasonable visitation rights except as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2)(a) Visitation with the child shall be limited if it is found 18 that the parent seeking visitation has engaged in any of the following 19 20 conduct: (i) Willful abandonment that continues for an extended period 21 of time or substantial refusal to perform parenting functions; (ii) 22 physical, sexual, or a pattern of emotional abuse of a child; (iii) a 23 history of acts of domestic violence as defined in RCW 26.50.010(1) or 24 an assault or sexual assault which causes grievous bodily harm or the 25 fear of such harm; or (iv) the parent has been convicted as an adult of 26 a sex offense under:

(A) RCW 9A.44.076 if, because of the difference in age between the
offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption exists under (d) of
this subsection;

30 (B) RCW 9A.44.079 if, because of the difference in age between the 31 offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption exists under (d) of 32 this subsection;

33 (C) RCW 9A.44.086 if, because of the difference in age between the 34 offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption exists under (d) of 35 this subsection;

36 (D) RCW 9A.44.089;

37 (E) RCW 9A.44.093;

- 1
- (F) RCW 9A.44.096;

2 (G) RCW 9A.64.020 (1) or (2) if, because of the difference in age
3 between the offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption exists
4 under (d) of this subsection;

5 (H) Chapter 9.68A RCW;

6 (I) Any predecessor or antecedent statute for the offenses listed 7 in (a)(iv)(A) through (H) of this subsection;

8 (J) Any statute from any other jurisdiction that describes an 9 offense analogous to the offenses listed in (a)(iv)(A) through (H) of 10 this subsection.

11 This subsection (2)(a) shall not apply when (c) or (d) of this 12 subsection applies.

13 (b) The parent's visitation with the child shall be limited if it is found that the parent resides with a person who has engaged in any 14 of the following conduct: (i) Physical, sexual, or a pattern of 15 emotional abuse of a child; (ii) a history of acts of domestic violence 16 17 as defined in RCW 26.50.010(1) or an assault or sexual assault that causes grievous bodily harm or the fear of such harm; or (iii) the 18 person has been convicted as an adult or as a juvenile has been 19 adjudicated of a sex offense under: 20

(A) RCW 9A.44.076 if, because of the difference in age between the offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption exists under (e) of this subsection;

(B) RCW 9A.44.079 if, because of the difference in age between the
offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption exists under (e) of
this subsection;

(C) RCW 9A.44.086 if, because of the difference in age between the offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption exists under (e) of this subsection;

- 30 (D) RCW 9A.44.089;
- 31 (E) RCW 9A.44.093;
- 32 (F) RCW 9A.44.096;

33 (G) RCW 9A.64.020 (1) or (2) if, because of the difference in age 34 between the offender and the victim, no rebuttable presumption exists 35 under (e) of this subsection;

36 (H) Chapter 9.68A RCW;

(I) Any predecessor or antecedent statute for the offenses listedin (b)(iii)(A) through (H) of this subsection;

р. б

(J) Any statute from any other jurisdiction that describes an
 offense analogous to the offenses listed in (b)(iii)(A) through (H) of
 this subsection.

4 This subsection (2)(b) shall not apply when (c) or (e) of this 5 subsection applies.

(c) If a parent has been found to be a sexual predator under б 7 chapter 71.09 RCW or under an analogous statute of any other 8 jurisdiction, the court shall restrain the parent from contact with a child that would otherwise be allowed under this chapter. If a parent 9 resides with an adult or a juvenile who has been found to be a sexual 10 predator under chapter 71.09 RCW or under an analogous statute of any 11 12 other jurisdiction, the court shall restrain the parent from contact with the parent's child except contact that occurs outside that 13 14 person's presence.

(d) There is a rebuttable presumption that a parent who has been convicted as an adult of a sex offense listed in (d)(i) through (ix) of this subsection poses a present danger to a child. Unless the parent rebuts this presumption, the court shall restrain the parent from contact with a child that would otherwise be allowed under this chapter:

(i) RCW 9A.64.020 (1) or (2), provided that the person convicted
was at least five years older than the other person;

23 (ii) RCW 9A.44.073;

(iii) RCW 9A.44.076, provided that the person convicted was atleast eight years older than the victim;

(iv) RCW 9A.44.079, provided that the person convicted was at least
 eight years older than the victim;

28 (v) RCW 9A.44.083;

(vi) RCW 9A.44.086, provided that the person convicted was at least eight years older than the victim;

31 (vii) RCW 9A.44.100;

32 (viii) Any predecessor or antecedent statute for the offenses 33 listed in (d)(i) through (vii) of this subsection;

(ix) Any statute from any other jurisdiction that describes an
 offense analogous to the offenses listed in (d)(i) through (vii) of
 this subsection.

37 (e) There is a rebuttable presumption that a parent who resides38 with a person who, as an adult, has been convicted, or as a juvenile

has been adjudicated, of the sex offenses listed in (e)(i) through (ix) of this subsection places a child at risk of abuse or harm when that parent exercises visitation in the presence of the convicted or adjudicated person. Unless the parent rebuts the presumption, the court shall restrain the parent from contact with the parent's child except for contact that occurs outside of the convicted or adjudicated person's presence:

8 (i) RCW 9A.64.020 (1) or (2), provided that the person convicted 9 was at least five years older than the other person;

10 (ii) RCW 9A.44.073;

(iii) RCW 9A.44.076, provided that the person convicted was at least eight years older than the victim;

13 (iv) RCW 9A.44.079, provided that the person convicted was at least 14 eight years older than the victim;

15 (v) RCW 9A.44.083;

16 (vi) RCW 9A.44.086, provided that the person convicted was at least 17 eight years older than the victim;

18 (vii) RCW 9A.44.100;

19 (viii) Any predecessor or antecedent statute for the offenses 20 listed in (e)(i) through (vii) of this subsection;

(ix) Any statute from any other jurisdiction that describes an offense analogous to the offenses listed in (e)(i) through (vii) of this subsection.

24 (f) The presumption established in (d) of this subsection may be 25 rebutted only after a written finding that:

(i) If the child was not the victim of the sex offense committed by the parent requesting visitation, (A) contact between the child and the offending parent is appropriate and poses minimal risk to the child, and (B) the offending parent has successfully engaged in treatment for sex offenders or is engaged in and making progress in such treatment, if any was ordered by a court, and the treatment provider believes such contact is appropriate and poses minimal risk to the child; or

(ii) If the child was the victim of the sex offense committed by the parent requesting visitation, (A) contact between the child and the offending parent is appropriate and poses minimal risk to the child, (B) if the child is in or has been in therapy for victims of sexual abuse, the child's counselor believes such contact between the child and the offending parent is in the child's best interest, and (C) the offending parent has successfully engaged in treatment for sex offenders or is engaged in and making progress in such treatment, if any was ordered by a court, and the treatment provider believes such contact is appropriate and poses minimal risk to the child.

5 (g) The presumption established in (e) of this subsection may be 6 rebutted only after a written finding that:

7 (i) If the child was not the victim of the sex offense committed by 8 the person who is residing with the parent requesting visitation, (A) contact between the child and the parent residing with the convicted or 9 10 adjudicated person is appropriate and that parent is able to protect the child in the presence of the convicted or adjudicated person, and 11 12 (B) the convicted or adjudicated person has successfully engaged in 13 treatment for sex offenders or is engaged in and making progress in 14 such treatment, if any was ordered by a court, and the treatment provider believes such contact is appropriate and poses minimal risk to 15 the child; or 16

17 (ii) If the child was the victim of the sex offense committed by 18 the person who is residing with the parent requesting visitation, (A) 19 contact between the child and the parent in the presence of the convicted or adjudicated person is appropriate and poses minimal risk 20 21 to the child, (B) if the child is in or has been in therapy for victims 22 of sexual abuse, the child's counselor believes such contact between 23 the child and the parent residing with the convicted or adjudicated 24 person in the presence of the convicted or adjudicated person is in the 25 child's best interest, and (C) the convicted or adjudicated person has 26 successfully engaged in treatment for sex offenders or is engaged in 27 and making progress in such treatment, if any was ordered by a court, and the treatment provider believes contact between the parent and 28 29 child in the presence of the convicted or adjudicated person is 30 appropriate and poses minimal risk to the child.

(h) If the court finds that the parent has met the burden of 31 rebutting the presumption under (f) of this subsection, the court may 32 allow a parent who has been convicted as an adult of a sex offense 33 listed in (d)(i) through (ix) of this subsection to have visitation 34 35 with the child supervised by a neutral and independent adult and 36 pursuant to an adequate plan for supervision of such visitation. The 37 court shall not approve of a supervisor for contact between the child and the parent unless the court finds, based on the evidence, that the 38

supervisor is willing and capable of protecting the child from harm.
 The court shall revoke court approval of the supervisor upon finding,
 based on the evidence, that the supervisor has failed to protect the
 child or is no longer willing or capable of protecting the child.

5 (i) If the court finds that the parent has met the burden of rebutting the presumption under (g) of this subsection, the court may 6 7 allow a parent residing with a person who has been adjudicated as a 8 juvenile of a sex offense listed in (e)(i) through (ix) of this 9 subsection to have visitation with the child in the presence of the 10 person adjudicated as a juvenile, supervised by a neutral and independent adult and pursuant to an adequate plan for supervision of 11 12 such visitation. The court shall not approve of a supervisor for 13 contact between the child and the parent unless the court finds, based 14 on the evidence, that the supervisor is willing and capable of protecting the child from harm. The court shall revoke court approval 15 of the supervisor upon finding, based on the evidence, that the 16 17 supervisor has failed to protect the child or is no longer willing or 18 capable of protecting the child.

19 (j) If the court finds that the parent has met the burden of rebutting the presumption under (g) of this subsection, the court may 20 21 allow a parent residing with a person who, as an adult, has been 22 convicted of a sex offense listed in (e)(i) through (ix) of this 23 subsection to have visitation with the child in the presence of the 24 convicted person supervised by a neutral and independent adult and 25 pursuant to an adequate plan for supervision of such visitation. The 26 court shall not approve of a supervisor for contact between the child 27 and the parent unless the court finds, based on the evidence, that the 28 supervisor is willing and capable of protecting the child from harm. 29 The court shall revoke court approval of the supervisor upon finding, 30 based on the evidence, that the supervisor has failed to protect the child or is no longer willing or capable of protecting the child. 31

32 (k) A court shall not order unsupervised contact between the 33 offending parent and a child of the offending parent who was sexually 34 abused by that parent. A court may order unsupervised contact between 35 the offending parent and a child who was not sexually abused by the 36 parent after the presumption under (d) of this subsection has been 37 rebutted and supervised visitation has occurred for at least two years 38 with no further arrests or convictions of sex offenses involving

children under chapter 9A.44 RCW, RCW 9A.64.020, or chapter 9.68A RCW 1 2 and (i) the sex offense of the offending parent was not committed against a child of the offending parent, and (ii) the court finds that 3 4 unsupervised contact between the child and the offending parent is appropriate and poses minimal risk to the child, after consideration of 5 the testimony of a state-certified therapist, mental health counselor, б 7 or social worker with expertise in treating child sexual abuse victims 8 who has supervised at least one period of visitation between the parent and the child, and after consideration of evidence of the offending 9 10 parent's compliance with community supervision requirements, if any. If the offending parent was not ordered by a court to participate in 11 12 treatment for sex offenders, then the parent shall obtain а 13 psychosexual evaluation conducted by a certified sex offender treatment provider or a certified affiliate sex offender treatment provider 14 indicating that the offender has the lowest likelihood of risk to 15 reoffend before the court grants unsupervised contact between the 16 17 parent and a child.

18 (1) A court may order unsupervised contact between the parent and a child which may occur in the presence of a juvenile adjudicated of a 19 sex offense listed in (e)(i) through (ix) of this subsection who 20 21 resides with the parent after the presumption under (e) of this 22 subsection has been rebutted and supervised visitation has occurred for 23 at least two years during which time the adjudicated juvenile has had 24 no further arrests, adjudications, or convictions of sex offenses 25 involving children under chapter 9A.44 RCW, RCW 9A.64.020, or chapter 26 9.68A RCW, and (i) the court finds that unsupervised contact between the child and the parent that may occur in the presence of the 27 adjudicated juvenile is appropriate and poses minimal risk to the 28 child, after consideration of the testimony of a state-certified 29 30 therapist, mental health counselor, or social worker with expertise in treatment of child sexual abuse victims who has supervised at least one 31 32 period of visitation between the parent and the child in the presence of the adjudicated juvenile, and after consideration of evidence of the 33 adjudicated juvenile's compliance with community supervision or parole 34 35 requirements, if any. If the adjudicated juvenile was not ordered by 36 a court to participate in treatment for sex offenders, then the 37 adjudicated juvenile shall obtain a psychosexual evaluation conducted by a certified sex offender treatment provider or a certified affiliate 38

1 sex offender treatment provider indicating that the adjudicated 2 juvenile has the lowest likelihood of risk to reoffend before the court 3 grants unsupervised contact between the parent and a child which may 4 occur in the presence of the adjudicated juvenile who is residing with 5 the parent.

(m)(i) The limitations imposed by the court under (a) or (b) of 6 7 this subsection shall be reasonably calculated to protect the child 8 from the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or harm that could result if the child has contact with the parent requesting visitation. If the 9 10 court expressly finds based on the evidence that limitations on visitation with the child will not adequately protect the child from 11 12 the harm or abuse that could result if the child has contact with the 13 parent requesting visitation, the court shall restrain the person seeking visitation from all contact with the child. 14

15 (ii) The court shall not enter an order under (a) of this subsection allowing a parent to have contact with a child if the parent 16 17 has been found by clear and convincing evidence in a civil action or by 18 a preponderance of the evidence in a dependency action to have sexually 19 abused the child, except upon recommendation by an evaluator or therapist for the child that the child is ready for contact with the 20 21 parent and will not be harmed by the contact. The court shall not 22 enter an order allowing a parent to have contact with the child in the 23 offender's presence if the parent resides with a person who has been 24 found by clear and convincing evidence in a civil action or by a 25 preponderance of the evidence in a dependency action to have sexually 26 abused a child, unless the court finds that the parent accepts that the 27 person engaged in the harmful conduct and the parent is willing to and 28 capable of protecting the child from harm from the person.

29 (iii) If the court limits visitation under (a) or (b) of this 30 subsection to require supervised contact between the child and the parent, the court shall not approve of a supervisor for contact between 31 32 a child and a parent who has engaged in physical, sexual, or a pattern of emotional abuse of the child unless the court finds based upon the 33 evidence that the supervisor accepts that the harmful conduct occurred 34 35 and is willing to and capable of protecting the child from harm. The 36 court shall revoke court approval of the supervisor upon finding, based 37 on the evidence, that the supervisor has failed to protect the child or 38 is no longer willing to or capable of protecting the child.

(n) If the court expressly finds based on the evidence that 1 2 contact between the parent and the child will not cause physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or harm to the child and that the 3 4 probability that the parent's or other person's harmful or abusive conduct will recur is so remote that it would not be in the child's 5 best interests to apply the limitations of (a), (b), and (m)(i) and б 7 (iii) of this subsection, or if the court expressly finds that the 8 parent's conduct did not have an impact on the child, then the court need not apply the limitations of (a), (b), and (m)(i) and (iii) of 9 10 this subsection. The weight given to the existence of a protection order issued under chapter 26.50 RCW as to domestic violence is within 11 12 the discretion of the court. This subsection shall not apply when (c), 13 (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), and (m)(ii) of this 14 subsection apply.

(3) ((Any person may petition the court for visitation rights at any time including, but not limited to, custody proceedings. The court may order visitation rights for any person when visitation may serve the best interest of the child whether or not there has been any change of circumstances.

20 (4))) The court may modify an order granting or denying visitation 21 rights whenever modification would serve the best interests of the 22 child. Modification of a parent's visitation rights shall be subject 23 to the requirements of subsection (2) of this section.

24 (((+5))) (4) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "A parent's child" means that parent's natural child, adoptedchild, or stepchild; and

(b) "Social worker" means a person with a master's or further advanced degree from a social work educational program accredited and approved as provided in RCW 18.320.010.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. RCW 26.09.240 (Visitation rights--Person other than parent--Grandparents' visitation rights) and 1996 c 177 s 1, 1989 c 375 s 13, 1987 c 460 s 18, 1977 ex.s. c 271 s 1, & 1973 1st ex.s. c 157 s 24 are each repealed.

34 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 8. Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute

1 a new chapter in Title 26 RCW.

--- END ---