CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5565

Chapter 162, Laws of 2013

63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

BACKGROUND CHECKS--UNSUPERVISED ACCESS TO CHILDREN

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/28/13 - Except section 5, which becomes effective 12/01/13.

YEAS 47 NAYS 0

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 16, 2013
YEAS 96 NAYS 0

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5565 as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

HUNTER G. GOODMAN

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 19, 2013

Secretary

Approved May 7, 2013, 2:30 p.m.

FILED

CERTIFICATE

May 7, 2013

JAY INSLEE

Secretary of State State of Washington

Governor of the State of Washington

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5565

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2013 Regular Session

State of Washington

18

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Hargrove, Carrell, Keiser, Harper, Nelson, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, and Kline)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/13.

- 1 AN ACT Relating to background checks; amending RCW 74.13.020 and
- 2 13.34.065; reenacting and amending RCW 74.13.020; adding new sections
- 3 to chapter 74.13 RCW; creating new sections; providing an effective
- 4 date; and providing an expiration date.
- 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:
- 6 NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature recognizes that the goals of 7 the child welfare system are the safety, permanence, and well-being of 8 the children it serves. The legislature further recognizes the 9 importance of background checks conducted by the department of social and health services to assess an individual's character, suitability, 10 and competence to determine whether an individual is appropriate to be 11 provided a license under chapter 74.13 RCW or have unsupervised access 12 to children. The legislature does not intend to change the current 13 secretary of social and health services' list of crimes and negative 14 actions. However, the legislature believes that either an unreasonable 15 delay in a determination of whether to approve or deny a license under 16 chapter 74.13 RCW or unsupervised access to children, when such 17

unreasonable delay or denial is based solely on a crime or civil

- 1 infraction not directly related to child safety, is not appropriate and
- 2 is not in the best interest of the children being served by the child
- 3 welfare system.

- 4 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW 5 to read as follows:
 - (1) In determining the character, suitability, and competence of an individual, the department may not:
 - (a) Deny or delay a license or approval of unsupervised access to children to an individual solely because of a crime or civil infraction involving the individual or entity revealed in the background check process that is not on the secretary's list of crimes and negative actions and is not related directly to child safety, permanence, or well-being; or
 - (b) Delay the issuance of a license or approval of unsupervised access to children by requiring the individual to obtain records relating to a crime or civil infraction revealed in the background check process that is not on the secretary's list of crimes and negative actions and is not related directly to child safety, permanence, or well-being and is not a permanent disqualifier pursuant to department rule.
 - (2) If the department determines that an individual does not possess the character, suitability, or competence to provide care or have unsupervised access to a child, it must provide the reasons for its decision in writing with copies of the records or documents related to its decision to the individual within ten days of making the decision.
 - (3) For purposes of this section, "individual" means a relative as defined in RCW 74.15.020(2)(a), an "other suitable person" under chapter 13.34 RCW, a person pursuing licensing as a foster parent, or a person employed or seeking employment by a business or organization licensed by the department or with whom the department has a contract to provide care, supervision, case management, or treatment of children in the care of the department. "Individual" does not include long-term care workers defined in RCW 74.39A.009(17)(a) whose background checks are conducted as provided in RCW 74.39A.056.
- 36 (4) The department or its officers, agents, or employees may not be 37 held civilly liable based upon its decision to grant or deny

- 1 unsupervised access to children if the background information it relied
- 2 upon at the time the decision was made did not indicate that child
- 3 safety, permanence, or well-being would be a concern.
- 4 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW to read as follows:
- The department shall charge a fee to process a request made by a person in another state for an individual's child abuse or neglect history in this state or other background history on the individual possessed by the department. All proceeds from the fees collected must
- 10 go directly to aiding the cost associated with the department
- 11 conducting background checks.
- 12 **Sec. 4.** RCW 74.13.020 and 2012 c 205 s 12 are each amended to read 13 as follows:
- 14 For purposes of this chapter:
- 15 (1) "Case management" means convening family meetings, developing, revising, and monitoring implementation of any case plan or individual 16 17 service and safety plan, coordinating and monitoring services needed by 18 the child and family, caseworker-child visits, family visits, and the assumption of court-related duties, excluding legal representation, 19 20 including preparing court reports, attending judicial hearings and permanency hearings, and ensuring that the child is progressing toward 21 22 permanency within state and federal mandates, including the Indian 23 child welfare act.
 - (2) "Child" means:

- 25 (a) A person less than eighteen years of age; or
- 26 (b) A person age eighteen to twenty-one years who is eligible to 27 receive the extended foster care services authorized under RCW 28 74.13.031.
- 29 (3) "Child protective services" has the same meaning as in RCW 30 26.44.020.
- 31 (4) "Child welfare services" means social services including 32 voluntary and in-home services, out-of-home care, case management, and 33 adoption services which strengthen, supplement, or substitute for, 34 parental care and supervision for the purpose of:
- 35 (a) Preventing or remedying, or assisting in the solution of

problems which may result in families in conflict, or the neglect, abuse, exploitation, or criminal behavior of children;

- (b) Protecting and caring for dependent, abused, or neglected children;
 - (c) Assisting children who are in conflict with their parents, and assisting parents who are in conflict with their children, with services designed to resolve such conflicts;
- (d) Protecting and promoting the welfare of children, including the strengthening of their own homes where possible, or, where needed;
- 10 (e) Providing adequate care of children away from their homes in 11 foster family homes or day care or other child care agencies or 12 facilities.
- 13 "Child welfare services" does not include child protection 14 services.
- 15 (5) "Committee" means the child welfare transformation design committee.
- 17 (6) "Department" means the department of social and health 18 services.
 - (7) "Extended foster care services" means residential and other support services the department is authorized to provide to foster children. These services include, but are not limited to, placement in licensed, relative, or otherwise approved care, or supervised independent living settings; assistance in meeting basic needs; independent living services; medical assistance; and counseling or treatment.
 - (8) "Measurable effects" means a statistically significant change which occurs as a result of the service or services a supervising agency is assigned in a performance-based contract, in time periods established in the contract.
 - (9) "Out-of-home care services" means services provided after the shelter care hearing to or for children in out-of-home care, as that term is defined in RCW 13.34.030, and their families, including the recruitment, training, and management of foster parents, the recruitment of adoptive families, and the facilitation of the adoption process, family reunification, independent living, emergency shelter, residential group care, and foster care, including relative placement.
- 37 (10) "Performance-based contracting" means the structuring of all 38 aspects of the procurement of services around the purpose of the work

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- to be performed and the desired results with the contract requirements set forth in clear, specific, and objective terms with measurable outcomes. Contracts shall also include provisions that link the performance of the contractor to the level and timing of reimbursement.
 - (11) "Permanency services" means long-term services provided to secure a child's safety, permanency, and well-being, including foster care services, family reunification services, adoption services, and preparation for independent living services.
 - (12) "Primary prevention services" means services which are designed and delivered for the primary purpose of enhancing child and family well-being and are shown, by analysis of outcomes, to reduce the risk to the likelihood of the initial need for child welfare services.
 - (13) "Supervising agency" means an agency licensed by the state under RCW 74.15.090, or licensed by a federally recognized Indian tribe located in this state under RCW 74.15.190, that has entered into a performance-based contract with the department to provide case management for the delivery and documentation of child welfare services, as defined in this section. This definition is applicable on or after December 30, 2015.
 - (14) "Unsupervised" has the same meaning as in RCW 43.43.830.
- 21 **Sec. 5.** RCW 74.13.020 and 2012 c 259 s 7 and 2012 c 205 s 12 are 22 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

For purposes of this chapter:

- (1) "Case management" means convening family meetings, developing, revising, and monitoring implementation of any case plan or individual service and safety plan, coordinating and monitoring services needed by the child and family, caseworker-child visits, family visits, and the assumption of court-related duties, excluding legal representation, including preparing court reports, attending judicial hearings and permanency hearings, and ensuring that the child is progressing toward permanency within state and federal mandates, including the Indian child welfare act.
 - (2) "Child" means:

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- (a) A person less than eighteen years of age; or
- 35 (b) A person age eighteen to twenty-one years who is eligible to 36 receive the extended foster care services authorized under RCW 37 74.13.031.

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- 1 (3) "Child protective services" has the same meaning as in RCW 2 26.44.020.
 - (4) "Child welfare services" means social services including voluntary and in-home services, out-of-home care, case management, and adoption services which strengthen, supplement, or substitute for, parental care and supervision for the purpose of:
 - (a) Preventing or remedying, or assisting in the solution of problems which may result in families in conflict, or the neglect, abuse, exploitation, or criminal behavior of children;
- 10 (b) Protecting and caring for dependent, abused, or neglected 11 children;
 - (c) Assisting children who are in conflict with their parents, and assisting parents who are in conflict with their children, with services designed to resolve such conflicts;
- 15 (d) Protecting and promoting the welfare of children, including the 16 strengthening of their own homes where possible, or, where needed;
 - (e) Providing adequate care of children away from their homes in foster family homes or day care or other child care agencies or facilities.
- 20 "Child welfare services" does not include child protection 21 services.
- 22 (5) "Committee" means the child welfare transformation design committee.
- 24 (6) "Department" means the department of social and health 25 services.
 - (7) "Extended foster care services" means residential and other support services the department is authorized to provide to foster children. These services include, but are not limited to, placement in licensed, relative, or otherwise approved care, or supervised independent living settings; assistance in meeting basic needs; independent living services; medical assistance; and counseling or treatment.
- 33 (8) "Family assessment" means a comprehensive assessment of child 34 safety, risk of subsequent child abuse or neglect, and family strengths 35 and needs that is applied to a child abuse or neglect report. Family 36 assessment does not include a determination as to whether child abuse 37 or neglect occurred, but does determine the need for services to

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address the safety of the child and the risk of subsequent maltreatment.

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- (9) "Measurable effects" means a statistically significant change which occurs as a result of the service or services a supervising agency is assigned in a performance-based contract, in time periods established in the contract.
- (10) "Out-of-home care services" means services provided after the shelter care hearing to or for children in out-of-home care, as that term is defined in RCW 13.34.030, and their families, including the recruitment, training, and management of foster parents, the recruitment of adoptive families, and the facilitation of the adoption process, family reunification, independent living, emergency shelter, residential group care, and foster care, including relative placement.
- (11) "Performance-based contracting" means the structuring of all aspects of the procurement of services around the purpose of the work to be performed and the desired results with the contract requirements set forth in clear, specific, and objective terms with measurable outcomes. Contracts shall also include provisions that link the performance of the contractor to the level and timing of reimbursement.
- (12) "Permanency services" means long-term services provided to secure a child's safety, permanency, and well-being, including foster care services, family reunification services, adoption services, and preparation for independent living services.
- (13) "Primary prevention services" means services which are designed and delivered for the primary purpose of enhancing child and family well-being and are shown, by analysis of outcomes, to reduce the risk to the likelihood of the initial need for child welfare services.
- (14) "Supervising agency" means an agency licensed by the state under RCW 74.15.090, or licensed by a federally recognized Indian tribe located in this state under RCW 74.15.190, that has entered into a performance-based contract with the department to provide case management for the delivery and documentation of child welfare services, as defined in this section. This definition is applicable on or after December 30, 2015.
 - (15) "Unsupervised" has the same meaning as in RCW 43.43.830.
- **Sec. 6.** RCW 13.34.065 and 2011 c 309 s 24 are each amended to read 37 as follows:

- 1 (1)(a) When a child is taken into custody, the court shall hold a 2 shelter care hearing within seventy-two hours, excluding Saturdays, 3 Sundays, and holidays. The primary purpose of the shelter care hearing 4 is to determine whether the child can be immediately and safely 5 returned home while the adjudication of the dependency is pending.
 - (b) Any parent, guardian, or legal custodian who for good cause is unable to attend the shelter care hearing may request that a subsequent shelter care hearing be scheduled. The request shall be made to the clerk of the court where the petition is filed prior to the initial shelter care hearing. Upon the request of the parent, the court shall schedule the hearing within seventy-two hours of the request, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The clerk shall notify all other parties of the hearing by any reasonable means.
 - (2)(a) If it is likely that the child will remain in shelter care longer than seventy-two hours, in those areas in which child welfare services are being provided by a supervising agency, the supervising agency shall assume case management responsibilities of the case. The department or supervising agency shall submit a recommendation to the court as to the further need for shelter care in all cases in which the child will remain in shelter care longer than the seventy-two hour period. In all other cases, the recommendation shall be submitted by the juvenile court probation counselor.
- 23 (b) All parties have the right to present testimony to the court 24 regarding the need or lack of need for shelter care.
 - (c) Hearsay evidence before the court regarding the need or lack of need for shelter care must be supported by sworn testimony, affidavit, or declaration of the person offering such evidence.
 - (3)(a) At the commencement of the hearing, the court shall notify the parent, guardian, or custodian of the following:
- (i) The parent, guardian, or custodian has the right to a shelter care hearing;
 - (ii) The nature of the shelter care hearing, the rights of the parents, and the proceedings that will follow; and
- (iii) If the parent, guardian, or custodian is not represented by counsel, the right to be represented. If the parent, guardian, or custodian is indigent, the court shall appoint counsel as provided in RCW 13.34.090; and

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(b) If a parent, guardian, or legal custodian desires to waive the shelter care hearing, the court shall determine, on the record and with the parties present, whether such waiver is knowing and voluntary. A parent may not waive his or her right to the shelter care hearing unless he or she appears in court and the court determines that the waiver is knowing and voluntary. Regardless of whether the court accepts the parental waiver of the shelter care hearing, the court must provide notice to the parents of their rights required under (a) of this subsection and make the finding required under subsection (4) of this section.

- (4) At the shelter care hearing the court shall examine the need for shelter care and inquire into the status of the case. The paramount consideration for the court shall be the health, welfare, and safety of the child. At a minimum, the court shall inquire into the following:
- (a) Whether the notice required under RCW 13.34.062 was given to all known parents, guardians, or legal custodians of the child. The court shall make an express finding as to whether the notice required under RCW 13.34.062 was given to the parent, guardian, or legal custodian. If actual notice was not given to the parent, guardian, or legal custodian and the whereabouts of such person is known or can be ascertained, the court shall order the department to make reasonable efforts to advise the parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the status of the case, including the date and time of any subsequent hearings, and their rights under RCW 13.34.090;
- (b) Whether the child can be safely returned home while the adjudication of the dependency is pending;
- (c) What efforts have been made to place the child with a relative. The court shall ask the parents whether the department discussed with them the placement of the child with a relative or other suitable person described in RCW 13.34.130(1)(b) and shall determine what efforts have been made toward such a placement;
- (d) What services were provided to the family to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the child's home. If the dependency petition or other information before the court alleges that homelessness or the lack of suitable housing was a significant factor contributing to the removal of the child, the court shall

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inquire as to whether housing assistance was provided to the family to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child or children;

- (e) Is the placement proposed by the department or supervising agency the least disruptive and most family-like setting that meets the needs of the child;
- (f) Whether it is in the best interest of the child to remain enrolled in the school, developmental program, or child care the child was in prior to placement and what efforts have been made to maintain the child in the school, program, or child care if it would be in the best interest of the child to remain in the same school, program, or child care;
 - (g) Appointment of a guardian ad litem or attorney;
- (h) Whether the child is or may be an Indian child as defined in RCW 13.38.040, whether the provisions of the federal Indian child welfare act or chapter 13.38 RCW apply, and whether there is compliance with the federal Indian child welfare act and chapter 13.38 RCW, including notice to the child's tribe;
- (i) Whether, as provided in RCW 26.44.063, restraining orders, or orders expelling an allegedly abusive household member from the home of a nonabusive parent, guardian, or legal custodian, will allow the child to safely remain in the home;
- (j) Whether any orders for examinations, evaluations, or immediate services are needed. The court may not order a parent to undergo examinations, evaluation, or services at the shelter care hearing unless the parent agrees to the examination, evaluation, or service;
- (k) The terms and conditions for parental, sibling, and family visitation.
- (5)(a) The court shall release a child alleged to be dependent to the care, custody, and control of the child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian unless the court finds there is reasonable cause to believe that:
- (i) After consideration of the specific services that have been provided, reasonable efforts have been made to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the child's home and to make it possible for the child to return home; and
- 36 (ii)(A) The child has no parent, guardian, or legal custodian to 37 provide supervision and care for such child; or

(B) The release of such child would present a serious threat of substantial harm to such child, notwithstanding an order entered pursuant to RCW 26.44.063; or

- (C) The parent, guardian, or custodian to whom the child could be released has been charged with violating RCW 9A.40.060 or 9A.40.070.
- (b) If the court does not release the child to his or her parent, guardian, or legal custodian, the court shall order placement with a relative or other suitable person as described in RCW 13.34.130(1)(b), unless there is reasonable cause to believe the health, safety, or welfare of the child would be jeopardized or that the efforts to reunite the parent and child will be hindered. If such relative or other suitable person appears otherwise suitable and competent to provide care and treatment, the fingerprint-based background check need not be completed before placement, but as soon as possible after placement. The court must also determine whether placement with the relative or other suitable person is in the child's best interests. The relative or other suitable person must be willing and available to:
 - (i) Care for the child and be able to meet any special needs of the child;
 - (ii) Facilitate the child's visitation with siblings, if such visitation is part of the supervising agency's plan or is ordered by the court; and
- (iii) Cooperate with the department or supervising agency in providing necessary background checks and home studies.
- (c) If the child was not initially placed with a relative or other suitable person, and the court does not release the child to his or her parent, guardian, or legal custodian, the supervising agency shall make reasonable efforts to locate a relative or other suitable person pursuant to RCW 13.34.060(1). In determining placement, the court shall weigh the child's length of stay and attachment to the current provider in determining what is in the best interest of the child.
- (d) If a relative or other suitable person is not available, the court shall order continued shelter care and shall set forth its reasons for the order. If the court orders placement of the child with a person not related to the child and not licensed to provide foster care, the placement is subject to all terms and conditions of this section that apply to relative placements.

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- (e) Any placement with a relative, or other suitable person approved by the court pursuant to this section, shall be contingent upon cooperation with the department's or supervising agency's case plan and compliance with court orders related to the care and supervision of the child including, but not limited to, court orders regarding parent-child contacts, sibling contacts, and any other conditions imposed by the court. Noncompliance with the case plan or court order is grounds for removal of the child from the home of the relative or other suitable person, subject to review by the court.
- (f) Uncertainty by a parent, guardian, legal custodian, relative, or other suitable person that the alleged abuser has in fact abused the child shall not, alone, be the basis upon which a child is removed from the care of a parent, guardian, or legal custodian under (a) of this subsection, nor shall it be a basis, alone, to preclude placement with a relative or other suitable person under (b) of this subsection.
- (6)(a) A shelter care order issued pursuant to this section shall include the requirement for a case conference as provided in RCW 13.34.067. However, if the parent is not present at the shelter care hearing, or does not agree to the case conference, the court shall not include the requirement for the case conference in the shelter care order.
- (b) If the court orders a case conference, the shelter care order shall include notice to all parties and establish the date, time, and location of the case conference which shall be no later than thirty days before the fact-finding hearing.
- (c) The court may order another conference, case staffing, or hearing as an alternative to the case conference required under RCW 13.34.067 so long as the conference, case staffing, or hearing ordered by the court meets all requirements under RCW 13.34.067, including the requirement of a written agreement specifying the services to be provided to the parent.
- (7)(a) A shelter care order issued pursuant to this section may be amended at any time with notice and hearing thereon. The shelter care decision of placement shall be modified only upon a showing of change in circumstances. No child may be placed in shelter care for longer than thirty days without an order, signed by the judge, authorizing continued shelter care.

(b)(i) An order releasing the child on any conditions specified in this section may at any time be amended, with notice and hearing thereon, so as to return the child to shelter care for failure of the parties to conform to the conditions originally imposed.

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- (ii) The court shall consider whether nonconformance with any conditions resulted from circumstances beyond the control of the parent, guardian, or legal custodian and give weight to that fact before ordering return of the child to shelter care.
- 9 (8)(a) If a child is returned home from shelter care a second time 10 in the case, or if the supervisor of the caseworker deems it necessary, 11 the multidisciplinary team may be reconvened.
- 12 (b) If a child is returned home from shelter care a second time in 13 the case a law enforcement officer must be present and file a report to 14 the department.
 - NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. (1) The legislature finds that any person who has had a founded finding of child abuse or neglect or has been involved in a dependency action involving one or more of his or her children is able to turn his or her life around and establish good parenting relationships with his or her children. Unfortunately, his or her prior involvement with child protective services or the dependency court can hamper such a person's ability to find future employment, especially if the employment involves unsupervised access to children or other vulnerable populations.
 - (2) The legislature further finds that a number of states permit convicted offenders to seek a certificate of rehabilitation in certain situations. Generally, the certificate declares that a convicted individual is rehabilitated after completing a prison sentence or being released on parole or supervision. Usually, the applicant for a certificate must prove that he or she has met certain criteria before a certificate will be awarded. Such a certificate often restores certain rights to the applicant and makes him or her eligible for certain employment for which he or she would not be eligible without the certificate.
 - (3) A nonprofit with expertise in veteran parent programs shall convene a work group in consultation with the department of social and health services to explore options, including a certificate of rehabilitation, for addressing the impact of founded complaints on the

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- 1 ability of rehabilitated individuals to gain employment or care for
- 2 children, including volunteer activities. The work group must contain,
- 3 but not be limited to, persons representing the following: The courts
- 4 veteran parents, parent attorneys, foster parents, relative caregivers,
- 5 kinship caregivers, child-placing agencies, the attorney general's
- 6 office, the governor's policy office, the office of public defense
- 7 parent representation program, and the legislature.
- 8 (4) The work group shall report recommendations to the appropriate
- 9 committees of the legislature no later than December 31, 2013.
- 10 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 8.** The department of social and health services
- 11 shall adopt all necessary rules to implement this act.
- 12 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 9.** Section 4 of this act expires December 1,
- 13 2013.
- 14 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 10.** Section 5 of this act takes effect December
- 15 1, 2013.

Passed by the Senate April 19, 2013.

Passed by the House April 16, 2013.

Approved by the Governor May 7, 2013.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 7, 2013.