

**2SSB 5718** - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Appropriations

**ADOPTED 04/11/2019**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Beginning July 1, 2020, the department shall establish a  
6 child welfare housing assistance pilot program, which provides  
7 housing vouchers, rental assistance, navigation, and other support  
8 services to eligible families.

9 (a) The department shall operate or contract for the operation of  
10 the child welfare housing assistance pilot program under subsection  
11 (3) of this section in one county west of the crest of the Cascade  
12 mountain range and one county east of the crest of the Cascade  
13 mountain range.

14 (b) The child welfare housing assistance pilot program is  
15 intended to shorten the time that children remain in out-of-home  
16 care.

17 (2) A parent with a child who is dependent pursuant to chapter  
18 13.34 RCW and whose primary remaining barrier to reunification is the  
19 lack of appropriate housing is eligible for the child welfare housing  
20 assistance pilot program.

21 (3) The department shall contract with an outside entity or  
22 entities to operate the child welfare housing assistance pilot  
23 program. If no outside entity or entities are available to operate  
24 the program or specific parts of the program, the department may  
25 operate the program or the specific parts that are not operated by an  
26 outside entity.

27 (4) Families may be referred to the child welfare housing  
28 assistance pilot program by a caseworker, an attorney, a guardian ad  
29 litem as defined in chapter 13.34 RCW, a child welfare parent mentor  
30 as defined in RCW 2.70.060, an office of public defense social  
31 worker, or the court.

1 (5) The department shall consult with a stakeholder group that  
2 must include, but is not limited to, the following:

3 (a) Parent allies;

4 (b) Parent attorneys and social workers managed by the office of  
5 public defense parent representation program;

6 (c) The department of commerce;

7 (d) Housing experts;

8 (e) Community-based organizations;

9 (f) Advocates; and

10 (g) Behavioral health providers.

11 (6) The stakeholder group established in subsection (5) of this  
12 section shall begin meeting after the effective date of this section  
13 and assist the department in design of the child welfare housing  
14 assistance pilot program in areas including, but not limited to:

15 (a) Equitable racial, geographic, ethnic, and gender distribution  
16 of program support;

17 (b) Eligibility criteria;

18 (c) Creating a definition of homeless for purposes of eligibility  
19 for the program; and

20 (d) Options for program design that include outside entities  
21 operating the entire program or specific parts of the program.

22 (7) By December 1, 2021, the department shall report outcomes for  
23 the child welfare housing assistance pilot program to the oversight  
24 board for children, youth, and families established pursuant to RCW  
25 43.216.015. The report must include racial, geographic, ethnic, and  
26 gender distribution of program support.

27 (8) The child welfare housing assistance pilot program  
28 established in this section is subject to the availability of funds  
29 appropriated for this purpose.

30 (9) This section expires June 30, 2022.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If specific funding for the purposes of  
32 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
33 provided by June 30, 2019, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
34 act is null and void."

35 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Limits the child welfare housing assistance pilot  
program to one county in Eastern Washington and one county in Western  
Washington.

(2) Adds a null and void clause. The bill is null and void unless funded in the budget.

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