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**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5691**

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**State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Warnick and Shewmake

AN ACT Relating to resource and assessment centers; and amending RCW 74.15.311.

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

**Sec.**  RCW 74.15.311 and 2013 c 105 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The secretary is authorized to license resource and assessment centers if the agency meets the following requirements:

(a) There is a demonstrated need in the local community for a resource and assessment center; and

(b) The resource and assessment center will be primarily staffed by trained volunteers((~~; and~~

~~(c) The resource and assessment center demonstrates it is not financially dependent on reimbursement from the state to operate~~)).

(2) The department may adopt rules to specify licensing requirements for resource and assessment centers. Rules adopted by the department shall allow:

(a) A sufficient number of trained volunteers to meet staffing requirements;

(b) Flexibility in hours of operation and not require the resource and assessment center to be open if there are no children in its care; and

(c) The ability to operate in a residential area.

(3) Resource and assessment centers licensed under this section may:

(a) Provide care for children ages birth through ((~~twelve, or for children ages thirteen through seventeen who have a sibling or siblings under thirteen years of age who are being admitted to the resource and assessment center~~)) 17 at the discretion of the resource and assessment center; ((~~and~~))

(b) Operate up to ((~~twenty-four~~)) 24 hours per day, and for up to seven days per week((~~.~~

~~(4) Resource and assessment centers may not be~~));

(c) Provide care for children for up to three business days, or up to seven business days with department approval;

(d) Be used to ((~~address~~)) provide emergency initial care for children as they enter foster care; and

(e) Address placement disruptions for children who have not been removed from a foster home because of the child's behavior or safety concerns.

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