

**ESSB 5599** - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning

**ADOPTED AS AMENDED 04/12/2023**

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that unsheltered  
4 homelessness for youth poses a serious threat to their health and  
5 safety. The Trevor project has found that one in three transgender  
6 youth report attempting suicide. Homelessness amongst transgender  
7 youth can further endanger an already at-risk population. The  
8 legislature further finds that barriers to accessing shelter can  
9 place a chilling effect on exiting unsheltered homelessness and  
10 therefore create additional risk and dangers for youth. Youth seeking  
11 certain medical services are especially at risk and vulnerable.  
12 Therefore, the legislature intends to remove barriers to accessing  
13 temporary, licensed shelter accommodations for youth seeking certain  
14 protected health care services.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 13.32A.082 and 2013 c 4 s 2 are each amended to read  
16 as follows:

17 (1)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, any person,  
18 unlicensed youth shelter, or runaway and homeless youth program that,  
19 without legal authorization, provides shelter to a minor and that  
20 knows at the time of providing the shelter that the minor is away  
21 from a lawfully prescribed residence or home without parental  
22 permission, shall promptly report the location of the child to the  
23 parent, the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction in which the  
24 person lives, or the department.

25 (b)(i) If a licensed overnight youth shelter, or another licensed  
26 organization with a stated mission to provide services to homeless or  
27 runaway youth and their families, shelters a child and knows at the  
28 time of providing the shelter that the child is away from a lawfully  
29 prescribed residence or home without parental permission, it must  
30 contact the youth's parent within seventy-two hours, but preferably  
31 within twenty-four hours, following the time that the youth is

1 admitted to the shelter or other licensed organization's program. The  
2 notification must include the whereabouts of the youth, a description  
3 of the youth's physical and emotional condition, and the  
4 circumstances surrounding the youth's contact with the shelter or  
5 organization. If there are compelling reasons not to notify the  
6 parent, the shelter or organization must instead notify the  
7 department.

8 (ii) At least once every eight hours after learning that a youth  
9 receiving services or shelter under this section is away from home  
10 without permission, the shelter or organization staff must consult  
11 the information that the Washington state patrol makes publicly  
12 available under RCW 43.43.510(2). If the youth is publicly listed as  
13 missing, the shelter or organization must immediately notify the  
14 department of its contact with the youth listed as missing. The  
15 notification must include a description of the minor's physical and  
16 emotional condition and the circumstances surrounding the youth's  
17 contact with the shelter or organization.

18 (c) Reports required under this section may be made by telephone  
19 or any other reasonable means.

20 (2) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the  
21 definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

22 (a) "Shelter" means the person's home or any structure over which  
23 the person has any control.

24 (b) "Promptly report" means to report within eight hours after  
25 the person has knowledge that the minor is away from a lawfully  
26 prescribed residence or home without parental permission.

27 (c) "Compelling reasons" include, but are not limited to(~~7~~  
28 ~~circumstances~~):

29 (i) Circumstances that indicate that notifying the parent or  
30 legal guardian will subject the minor to abuse or neglect as defined  
31 in RCW 26.44.020; or

32 (ii) When a minor is seeking or receiving protected health care  
33 services.

34 (d) "Protected health care services" means gender affirming  
35 treatment as defined in RCW 74.09.675 and reproductive health care  
36 services as defined in RCW 74.09.875.

37 (3) When the department receives a report under subsection (1) of  
38 this section, it shall make a good faith attempt to notify the parent  
39 that a report has been received and offer services designed to  
40 resolve the conflict and accomplish a reunification of the family.

1 (4) Nothing in this section prohibits any person, unlicensed  
2 youth shelter, or runaway and homeless youth program from immediately  
3 reporting the identity and location of any minor who is away from a  
4 lawfully prescribed residence or home without parental permission  
5 more promptly than required under this section.

6 (5) Nothing in this section limits a person's duty to report  
7 child abuse or neglect as required by RCW 26.44.030 or removes the  
8 requirement that the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction in  
9 which the person lives be notified.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 74.15.020 and 2021 c 176 s 5239 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter and  
13 RCW 74.13.031 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

14 (1) "Agency" means any person, firm, partnership, association,  
15 corporation, or facility which receives children, expectant mothers,  
16 or persons with developmental disabilities for control, care, or  
17 maintenance outside their own homes, or which places, arranges the  
18 placement of, or assists in the placement of children, expectant  
19 mothers, or persons with developmental disabilities for foster care  
20 or placement of children for adoption, and shall include the  
21 following irrespective of whether there is compensation to the agency  
22 or to the children, expectant mothers, or persons with developmental  
23 disabilities for services rendered:

24 (a) "Child-placing agency" means an agency which places a child  
25 or children for temporary care, continued care, or for adoption;

26 (b) "Community facility" means a group care facility operated for  
27 the care of juveniles committed to the department under RCW  
28 13.40.185. A county detention facility that houses juveniles  
29 committed to the department under RCW 13.40.185 pursuant to a  
30 contract with the department is not a community facility;

31 (c) "Crisis residential center" means an agency which is a  
32 temporary protective residential facility operated to perform the  
33 duties specified in chapter 13.32A RCW, in the manner provided in RCW  
34 43.185C.295 through 43.185C.310;

35 (d) "Emergency respite center" is an agency that may be commonly  
36 known as a crisis nursery, that provides emergency and crisis care  
37 for up to seventy-two hours to children who have been admitted by  
38 their parents or guardians to prevent abuse or neglect. Emergency  
39 respite centers may operate for up to twenty-four hours a day, and

1 for up to seven days a week. Emergency respite centers may provide  
2 care for children ages birth through seventeen, and for persons  
3 eighteen through twenty with developmental disabilities who are  
4 admitted with a sibling or siblings through age seventeen. Emergency  
5 respite centers may not substitute for crisis residential centers or  
6 HOPE centers, or any other services defined under this section, and  
7 may not substitute for services which are required under chapter  
8 13.32A or 13.34 RCW;

9 (e) "Foster family home" means an agency which regularly provides  
10 care on a twenty-four hour basis to one or more children, expectant  
11 mothers, or persons with developmental disabilities in the family  
12 abode of the person or persons under whose direct care and  
13 supervision the child, expectant mother, or person with a  
14 developmental disability is placed;

15 (f) "Group-care facility" means an agency, other than a foster  
16 family home, which is maintained and operated for the care of a group  
17 of children on a twenty-four hour basis. "Group care facility"  
18 includes but is not limited to:

19 (i) Qualified residential treatment programs as defined in RCW  
20 13.34.030;

21 (ii) Facilities specializing in providing prenatal, postpartum,  
22 or parenting supports for youth; and

23 (iii) Facilities providing high quality residential care and  
24 supportive services to children who are, or who are at risk of  
25 becoming, victims of sex trafficking;

26 (g) "HOPE center" means an agency licensed by the secretary to  
27 provide temporary residential placement and other services to street  
28 youth. A street youth may remain in a HOPE center for thirty days  
29 while services are arranged and permanent placement is coordinated.  
30 No street youth may stay longer than thirty days unless approved by  
31 the department and any additional days approved by the department  
32 must be based on the unavailability of a long-term placement option.  
33 A street youth whose parent wants him or her returned to home may  
34 remain in a HOPE center until his or her parent arranges return of  
35 the youth, not longer. All other street youth must have court  
36 approval under chapter 13.34 or 13.32A RCW to remain in a HOPE center  
37 up to thirty days;

38 (h) "Maternity service" means an agency which provides or  
39 arranges for care or services to expectant mothers, before or during

1 confinement, or which provides care as needed to mothers and their  
2 infants after confinement;

3 (i) "Resource and assessment center" means an agency that  
4 provides short-term emergency and crisis care for a period up to  
5 seventy-two hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays to  
6 children who have been removed from their parent's or guardian's care  
7 by child protective services or law enforcement;

8 (j) "Responsible living skills program" means an agency licensed  
9 by the secretary that provides residential and transitional living  
10 services to persons ages sixteen to eighteen who are dependent under  
11 chapter 13.34 RCW and who have been unable to live in his or her  
12 legally authorized residence and, as a result, the minor lived  
13 outdoors or in another unsafe location not intended for occupancy by  
14 the minor. Dependent minors ages fourteen and fifteen may be eligible  
15 if no other placement alternative is available and the department  
16 approves the placement;

17 (k) "Service provider" means the entity that operates a community  
18 facility.

19 (2) "Agency" shall not include the following:

20 (a) Persons related to the child, expectant mother, or person  
21 with developmental disability in the following ways:

22 (i) Any blood relative, including those of half-blood, and  
23 including first cousins, second cousins, nephews or nieces, and  
24 persons of preceding generations as denoted by prefixes of grand,  
25 great, or great-great;

26 (ii) Stepfather, stepmother, stepbrother, and stepsister;

27 (iii) A person who legally adopts a child or the child's parent  
28 as well as the natural and other legally adopted children of such  
29 persons, and other relatives of the adoptive parents in accordance  
30 with state law;

31 (iv) Spouses of any persons named in (a)(i), (ii), or (iii) of  
32 this subsection (2), even after the marriage is terminated;

33 (v) Relatives, as named in (a)(i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of this  
34 subsection (2), of any half sibling of the child; or

35 (vi) Extended family members, as defined by the law or custom of  
36 the Indian child's tribe or, in the absence of such law or custom, a  
37 person who has reached the age of eighteen and who is the Indian  
38 child's grandparent, aunt or uncle, brother or sister, brother-in-law  
39 or sister-in-law, niece or nephew, first or second cousin, or

1 stepparent who provides care in the family abode on a twenty-four-  
2 hour basis to an Indian child as defined in 25 U.S.C. Sec. 1903(4);

3 (b) Persons who are legal guardians of the child, expectant  
4 mother, or persons with developmental disabilities;

5 (c) Persons who care for a neighbor's or friend's child or  
6 children, with or without compensation, where the parent and person  
7 providing care on a twenty-four-hour basis have agreed to the  
8 placement in writing and the state is not providing any payment for  
9 the care;

10 (d) A person, partnership, corporation, or other entity that  
11 provides placement or similar services to exchange students or  
12 international student exchange visitors or persons who have the care  
13 of an exchange student in their home;

14 (e) A person, partnership, corporation, or other entity that  
15 provides placement or similar services to international children who  
16 have entered the country by obtaining visas that meet the criteria  
17 for medical care as established by the United States citizenship and  
18 immigration services, or persons who have the care of such an  
19 international child in their home;

20 (f) Schools, including boarding schools, which are engaged  
21 primarily in education, operate on a definite school year schedule,  
22 follow a stated academic curriculum, accept only school-age children  
23 and do not accept custody of children;

24 (g) Hospitals licensed pursuant to chapter 70.41 RCW when  
25 performing functions defined in chapter 70.41 RCW, nursing homes  
26 licensed under chapter 18.51 RCW and assisted living facilities  
27 licensed under chapter 18.20 RCW;

28 (h) Licensed physicians or lawyers;

29 (i) Facilities approved and certified under chapter 71A.22 RCW;

30 (j) Any agency having been in operation in this state ten years  
31 prior to June 8, 1967, and not seeking or accepting moneys or  
32 assistance from any state or federal agency, and is supported in part  
33 by an endowment or trust fund;

34 (k) Persons who have a child in their home for purposes of  
35 adoption, if the child was placed in such home by a licensed child-  
36 placing agency, an authorized public or tribal agency or court or if  
37 a replacement report has been filed under chapter 26.33 RCW and the  
38 placement has been approved by the court;

1 (l) An agency operated by any unit of local, state, or federal  
2 government or an agency licensed by an Indian tribe pursuant to RCW  
3 74.15.190;

4 (m) A maximum or medium security program for juvenile offenders  
5 operated by or under contract with the department;

6 (n) An agency located on a federal military reservation, except  
7 where the military authorities request that such agency be subject to  
8 the licensing requirements of this chapter;

9 (o)(i) A host home program, and host home, operated by a tax  
10 exempt organization for youth not in the care of or receiving  
11 services from the department except as provided in subsection  
12 (2)(o)(iii) of this section, if that program: (A) Recruits and  
13 screens potential homes in the program, including performing  
14 background checks on individuals over the age of eighteen residing in  
15 the home through the Washington state patrol or equivalent law  
16 enforcement agency and performing physical inspections of the home;  
17 (B) screens and provides case management services to youth in the  
18 program; (C) obtains a notarized permission slip or limited power of  
19 attorney from the parent or legal guardian of the youth authorizing  
20 the youth to participate in the program and the authorization is  
21 updated every six months when a youth remains in a host home longer  
22 than six months, unless there is a compelling reason to not contact  
23 the parent or guardian; (D) obtains insurance for the program through  
24 an insurance provider authorized under Title 48 RCW; (E) provides  
25 mandatory reporter and confidentiality training; and (F) registers  
26 with the secretary of state under RCW 74.15.315.

27 (ii) If a host home program serves a child without parental  
28 authorization who is seeking or receiving protected health care  
29 services, the host home program must:

30 (A) Report to the department within 72 hours of the youth's  
31 participation in the program and following this report the department  
32 shall make a good faith attempt to notify the parent of this report  
33 and offer services designed to resolve the conflict and accomplish a  
34 reunification of the family;

35 (B) Report to the department the youth's participation in the  
36 host home program at least once every month when the youth remains in  
37 the host home longer than one month; and

38 (C) Provide case management outside of the host home and away  
39 from any individuals residing in the home at least once per month.

1 (iii) A host home program and host home that meets the other  
2 requirements of subsection (2)(o) of this section may provide care  
3 for a youth who is receiving services from the department if the  
4 youth is:

5 (A) Not subject to a dependency proceeding under chapter 13.34  
6 RCW; and

7 (B) Seeking or receiving protected health care services.

8 (iv) For purposes of this section, ((a—"host")) the following  
9 definitions apply:

10 (A) "Host home" ((is)) means a private home that volunteers to  
11 host youth in need of temporary placement that is associated with a  
12 host home program.

13 ((iii) For purposes of this section, a "host") (B) "Host home  
14 program" is a program that provides support to individual host homes  
15 and meets the requirements of (o)(i) of this subsection.

16 ((iv)) (C) "Compelling reason" means the youth is in the host  
17 home or seeking placement in a host home while seeking or receiving  
18 protected health care services.

19 (D) "Protected health care services" means gender affirming  
20 treatment as defined in RCW 74.09.675 and reproductive health care  
21 services as defined in RCW 74.09.875.

22 (v) Any host home program that receives local, state, or  
23 government funding shall report the following information to the  
24 office of homeless youth prevention and protection programs annually  
25 by December 1st of each year: The number of children the program  
26 served, why the child was placed with a host home, and where the  
27 child went after leaving the host home, including but not limited to  
28 returning to the parents, running away, reaching the age of majority,  
29 or becoming a dependent of the state;

30 (p) Receiving centers as defined in RCW 7.68.380.

31 (3) "Department" means the department of children, youth, and  
32 families.

33 (4) "Juvenile" means a person under the age of twenty-one who has  
34 been sentenced to a term of confinement under the supervision of the  
35 department under RCW 13.40.185.

36 (5) "Performance-based contracts" or "contracting" means the  
37 structuring of all aspects of the procurement of services around the  
38 purpose of the work to be performed and the desired results with the  
39 contract requirements set forth in clear, specific, and objective  
40 terms with measurable outcomes. Contracts may also include provisions



1 that link the performance of the contractor to the level and timing  
2 of the reimbursement.

3 (6) "Probationary license" means a license issued as a  
4 disciplinary measure to an agency that has previously been issued a  
5 full license but is out of compliance with licensing standards.

6 (7) "Requirement" means any rule, regulation, or standard of care  
7 to be maintained by an agency.

8 (8) "Secretary" means the secretary of the department.

9 (9) "Street youth" means a person under the age of eighteen who  
10 lives outdoors or in another unsafe location not intended for  
11 occupancy by the minor and who is not residing with his or her parent  
12 or at his or her legally authorized residence.

13 (10) "Transitional living services" means at a minimum, to the  
14 extent funds are available, the following:

15 (a) Educational services, including basic literacy and  
16 computational skills training, either in local alternative or public  
17 high schools or in a high school equivalency program that leads to  
18 obtaining a high school equivalency degree;

19 (b) Assistance and counseling related to obtaining vocational  
20 training or higher education, job readiness, job search assistance,  
21 and placement programs;

22 (c) Counseling and instruction in life skills such as money  
23 management, home management, consumer skills, parenting, health care,  
24 access to community resources, and transportation and housing  
25 options;

26 (d) Individual and group counseling; and

27 (e) Establishing networks with federal agencies and state and  
28 local organizations such as the United States department of labor,  
29 employment and training administration programs including the  
30 workforce innovation and opportunity act which administers private  
31 industry councils and the job corps; vocational rehabilitation; and  
32 volunteer programs."

33 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Makes the following changes to the underlying bill:

(1) Requires that a host home program that serves a youth without parental authorization seeking or receiving "protected health care services" do the following: (a) Report to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) within 72 hours of the youth's participation in the program and following this report the DCYF must make a good faith attempt to notify the parent of this report and

offer services designed to resolve the conflict and accomplish a reunification of the family; (b) report to the DCYF of the youth's participation in the host home program at least once every month when the youth remains in the host home longer than one month; and (c) provide case management outside of the host home and away from any individuals residing in the home at least once per month.

(2) Allows host homes to provide care for a youth who is receiving services from the department if the youth is: (a) Not subject to a dependency proceeding; and (b) seeking or receiving protected health care services.

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