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**SENATE BILL 5866**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2026 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Torres, Christian, Dozier, and Gildon

Prefiled 12/10/25. Read first time 01/12/26. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing frontline staffing within the  
2 department of children, youth, and families; and creating new  
3 sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that child  
6 protective services is understaffed, which is consistent with the  
7 findings of the child welfare workload study completed by the  
8 department of children, youth, and families. The legislature also  
9 finds that the department's program support is overstaffed in excess  
10 of 100 full-time equivalents relative to the program's base  
11 appropriation. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to  
12 increase the number of social workers and related staff that provide  
13 direct services to receive, refer, and respond to screened-in reports  
14 of child abuse or neglect while also reducing the number of staff  
15 that do not provide direct client services.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Within existing resources, the  
17 department of children, youth, and families shall increase child  
18 protective services staff that provide direct services, which may  
19 include social workers and related staff that provide services to  
20 receive, refer, and respond to screened-in reports of child abuse or

1 neglect, by 100 full-time equivalents by the end of the 2025-2027  
2 fiscal biennium. Staff may only include those provided for in RCW  
3 43.88.058(2).

4 (2) For the purposes of this section, "within existing resources"  
5 means by using reductions in staffing in the department of children,  
6 youth, and families' program support appropriation of the 2025-2027  
7 operating budget.

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