
BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE

BILL REQ. #: S-4509.1/02

ATTY/TYPIST: KT:rmh

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

2 **ESHB 2356** - S COMM AMD

3 By Committee on Human Services & Corrections

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5 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
6 following:

7 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Within existing resources, the
8 department of social and health services, in cooperation with the
9 office of the superintendent of public instruction, shall convene a
10 working group to prepare a plan for the legislature which addresses
11 educational stability and continuity for school age children who enter
12 into short term foster care. The working group shall be comprised of
13 representatives from:

14 (a) The children's administration of the department of social and
15 health services;

16 (b) The special education, transportation, and apportionment
17 divisions of the office of the superintendent of public instruction;

18 (c) The Washington state institute for public policy;

19 (d) School districts;

20 (e) Organizations that regularly advocate for foster children;

21 (f) Foster parents; and

22 (g) Other individuals with related expertise as deemed appropriate
23 by the working group.

24 (2)(a) The working group shall develop a plan for assuring that the
25 best interests of the child are a primary consideration in the school
26 placement of a child in short-term foster care. The plan must:

27 (i) Determine the current status of school placement for children
28 placed in short-term foster care;

29 (ii) Identify options and possible funding sources from existing
30 resources which could be made available to assure that children placed
31 in short-term foster care are able to remain in the school where they
32 were enrolled prior to placement;

33 (iii) Submit recommendations to the legislature by November 1,
34 2002, to assure the best interest of the child receives primary
35 consideration in school placement decisions.

36 (b) The plan shall be developed within existing resources.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Nooksack Valley and Mount Vernon
2 school districts shall implement a pilot project within existing
3 resources to assist school age children in foster care fewer than
4 seventy-five days to continue attending the school where they were
5 enrolled before entering foster care. The pilot project shall be
6 implemented as provided in this section no later than April 30, 2002,
7 and shall conclude June 30, 2003. Data from the pilot project shall be
8 compiled and submitted to the working group established in section 1 of
9 this act no later than July 30, 2002, and periodically thereafter.

10 (2) For the purposes of the pilot project in the two school
11 districts, the department of social and health services and the school
12 districts shall, as appropriate, undertake the following activities:

13 (a) A school age child who enters foster care on or after April 30,
14 2002, shall, unless it is determined to be not in the best interest of
15 the child, continue attending the school where she or he was enrolled
16 before entering foster care, notwithstanding the physical location of
17 the child's principal abode. The best interest of the child
18 determination shall be made at the seventy-two hour shelter care
19 hearing, and reviewed at any subsequent shelter care or review hearing.

20 (b) The department of social and health services, the school the
21 child was attending prior to entering foster care, and the school that
22 serves the child's foster home shall negotiate a plan for transporting
23 the child to the school the child was attending prior to entering
24 foster care. The department of social and health services shall not be
25 responsible for the cost of transportation of the children in the pilot
26 project.

27 (c) If the department of social and health services places a child
28 in foster care, and the child does not continue to attend the school
29 the child was attending prior to entering foster care, the department
30 shall notify the school about the change.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate
32 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
33 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
34 immediately."

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4 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "care;" strike the remainder
5 of the title and insert "creating new sections; and declaring an
6 emergency."

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