

SSB 5830 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & Children's Services

ADOPTED 04/06/2007

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.121  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 The legislature finds that:

6 (1) The years from birth to three are critical in building the  
7 social, emotional, and cognitive developmental foundations of a young  
8 child. Research into the brain development of young children reveals  
9 that children are born learning.

10 (2) The farther behind children are in their social, emotional,  
11 physical, and cognitive development, the more difficult it will be for  
12 them to catch up.

13 (3) A significant number of children age birth to five years are  
14 born with two or more of the following risk factors and have a greater  
15 chance of failure in school and beyond: Poverty; single or no parent;  
16 no parent employed full time or full year; all parents with disability;  
17 and mother without a high school degree.

18 (4) Parents and children involved in home visitation programs  
19 exhibit better birth outcomes, enhanced parent and child interactions,  
20 more efficient use of health care services, enhanced child development  
21 including improved school readiness, and early detection of  
22 developmental delays, as well as reduced welfare dependence, higher  
23 rates of school completion and job retention, reduction in frequency  
24 and severity of maltreatment, and higher rates of school graduation.

25 The legislature intends to promote the use of voluntary home  
26 visitation services to families at high risk as an early intervention  
27 strategy to alleviate the effect risk factors have on child  
28 development.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 43.121 RCW  
2 to read as follows:

3        The definitions in this section apply throughout sections 1 through  
4 4 of this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

5        (1) "Evidence-based" means a program or practice that has had  
6 multiple site random controlled trials demonstrating that the program  
7 or practice is effective for the population.

8        (2) "Home visitation" means providing services in the permanent or  
9 temporary residence, or in other familiar surroundings, of the family  
10 receiving such services.

11        (3) "Research-based" means a program or practice that has some  
12 research demonstrating effectiveness, but that does not yet meet the  
13 standard of evidence-based practices.

14        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 43.121 RCW  
15 to read as follows:

16        (1) Within available funds, the children's trust of Washington  
17 shall fund evidence-based and research-based home visitation programs  
18 for improving parenting skills and outcomes for children.    Home  
19 visitation programs must be voluntary and must address the needs of  
20 families at high risk.

21        (2) The children's trust of Washington shall develop a plan with  
22 the department of social and health services, the department of health,  
23 the department of early learning, and the family policy council to  
24 coordinate or consolidate home visitation services for children and  
25 families and report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by  
26 December 1, 2007, with their recommendations for implementation of the  
27 plan.

28        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    A new section is added to chapter 43.121 RCW  
29 to read as follows:

30        To recognize the focus on home visitation services, the Washington  
31 council for the prevention of child abuse and neglect is hereby renamed  
32 the children's trust of Washington.    All references to the Washington  
33 council for the prevention of child abuse and neglect in the Revised  
34 Code of Washington shall be construed to mean the children's trust of  
35 Washington.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 5.**   RCW 43.70.530 (Home visitor program) and  
2   1998 c 245 s 75 & 1993 c 179 s 2 are each repealed."

3        Correct the title.

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