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SENATE BILL 6181

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Senators Tom, Prentice, and Fairley

Read first time 04/16/09. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1            AN ACT Relating to the intensive resource home pilot; and amending  
2 RCW 74.13.800.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.13.800 and 2008 c 281 s 2 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6            (1) The department shall select two geographic areas with high  
7 concentrations of children with significant needs in out-of-home care  
8 for implementing an intensive resource home pilot. In choosing the  
9 pilot sites, the department shall: (a) Examine areas where there are  
10 concentrations of children with significant behavioral challenges and  
11 intensive developmental or medical needs who are being served in family  
12 foster homes; (b) consider sites of appropriate size that will allow  
13 for careful analysis of the impact of the intensive resource home pilot  
14 on the array of out-of-home care providers, including providers of  
15 behavioral rehabilitation services; and (c) determine the number of  
16 children to be served in these selected sites. Implementation of the  
17 program at the pilot sites also shall be structured to support the  
18 long-term goal of eventual expansion of the pilot statewide.

1 (2) Based on the information gathered by the work group convened  
2 under chapter 413, Laws of 2007, and the additional information  
3 gathered pursuant to this section, the department shall work  
4 collaboratively in:

5 (a) Seeking recommendations from foster parents and other out-of-  
6 home service providers, including child placing agencies, regarding the  
7 qualifications and requirements of intensive resource home providers,  
8 the needs of the children to be served, and the desired outcomes to be  
9 measured or monitored at the respective pilot sites; and

10 (b) Consulting with experts in child welfare, children's mental  
11 health, and children's health care to identify the evidence-based or  
12 promising practice models to be employed in the pilot and the  
13 appropriate supports to ensure program fidelity, including, but not  
14 limited to, the necessary training and clinical consultation and  
15 oversight to be provided to intensive resource homes.

16 (3) Using the recommendations from foster parents, the  
17 consultations with professionals as required in subsection (2)(a) and  
18 (b) of this section, and the information provided in the report to the  
19 legislature under chapter 413, Laws of 2007, including the information  
20 presented to the work group convened to prepare and present the report,  
21 the department shall implement the pilot by entering into contracts  
22 with no more than seventy-five providers who are determined by the  
23 department to meet the eligibility criteria for the intensive resource  
24 home pilot. The department shall:

25 (a) Define the criteria for intensive resource home providers,  
26 which shall include a requirement that the provider be licensed by the  
27 department as a foster parent, as well as meet additional requirements  
28 relating to relevant experience, education, training, and professional  
29 expertise necessary to meet the high needs of children identified as  
30 eligible for this pilot;

31 (b) Define criteria for identifying children with high needs who  
32 may be eligible for placement with an intensive resource home provider.  
33 Such criteria shall be based on the best interests of the child and  
34 include an assessment of the child's past and current level of  
35 functioning as well as a determination that the child's treatment plan  
36 and developmental needs are consistent with the placement plan;

37 (c) Establish a policy for placement of children with high needs in

1 intensive resource homes, including a process for matching the child's  
2 needs with the provider's skills and expertise;

3 (d) Establish a limit on the number and ages of children with high  
4 needs that may be placed in an intensive resource home pursuant to the  
5 pilot contract. Such limitation shall recognize that children with  
6 externalizing behaviors are most likely to experience long-term  
7 improvements in their behavior when care is provided in settings that  
8 minimize exposure to peers with challenging behaviors;

9 (e) Identify one or more approved models of skill building for use  
10 by intensive resource home providers, with the assistance of other  
11 child welfare experts;

12 (f) Specify the training and consultation requirements that support  
13 the models of service;

14 (g) Establish a system of supports, including clinical consultation  
15 and oversight for intensive resource homes;

16 (h) Develop a tiered payment system, by September 30, 2008, which  
17 may include a stipend to the provider, which takes into account the  
18 additional responsibilities intensive resource home providers have with  
19 regard to the children placed in their care. Until such time as the  
20 department has developed the tiered payment system, money for  
21 exceptional cost plans shall be used only for special services or  
22 supplies provided to the child and shall not be used to reimburse the  
23 provider for services he or she provides to the child. A stipend of  
24 not more than five hundred dollars per month may be used to reimburse  
25 the provider for services he or she provides directly to the child;

26 (i) Establish clearly defined responsibilities of intensive  
27 resource home providers, who have an intensive resource home contract  
28 including responsibilities to promote permanency and connections with  
29 birth parents; and

30 (j) Develop a process for annual performance reviews of intensive  
31 resource home providers.

32 (4) Contracts between the department and an intensive resource home  
33 provider shall include a statement of work focusing on achieving  
34 stability in placement and measuring improved permanency outcomes and  
35 shall specify at least the following elements:

36 (a) The model of treatment and care to be provided;

37 (b) The training and ongoing professional consultation to be  
38 provided;

1 (c) The method for determining any additional supports to be  
2 provided to an eligible child or the intensive resource home provider;

3 (d) The desired outcomes to be measured;

4 (e) A reasonable and efficient process for seeking a modification  
5 of the contract;

6 (f) The rate and terms of payment under the contract; and

7 (g) The term of the contract and the processes for an annual  
8 performance review of the intensive resource home provider and an  
9 annual assessment of the child.

10 (5) (~~Beginning on or before October 1, 2008,~~) The department  
11 shall begin the selection of, and negotiation of contracts with,  
12 intensive resource home providers in the selected pilot sites when  
13 specific funds have been appropriated by the legislature for  
14 implementation of the intensive resource home pilot.

15 (6) Nothing in chapter 281, Laws of 2008 gives a provider eligible  
16 under this section the right to a contract under the intensive resource  
17 home pilot, and nothing in chapter 281, Laws of 2008 gives a provider  
18 that has a contract under the pilot a right to have a child or children  
19 placed in the home pursuant to the contract.

20 (7) "Intensive resource home provider" means a provider who meets  
21 the eligibility criteria developed by the department under this section  
22 and who has an intensive resource home pilot contract with the  
23 department.

24 (8) (~~The department shall report to the governor and the~~  
25 ~~legislature by January 30, 2009, on the implementation of the pilot,~~  
26 ~~including how the pilot fits within the continuum of out-of-home care~~  
27 ~~options. Based on the experiences and lessons learned from~~  
28 ~~implementation of the pilot, the department shall recommend a process~~  
29 ~~and timeline for expanding the pilot and implementing it statewide.~~  
30 ~~The department shall report to the governor and the appropriate members~~  
31 ~~of the legislature by September 1, 2009, on the expansion, and shall~~  
32 ~~identify the essential elements of the intensive resource home pilot~~  
33 ~~that should be addressed or replicated if the pilot is expanded.~~

34 (+)) The department shall operate this pilot using only funds  
35 appropriated specifically for the operation of this pilot. The term  
36 "specifically for the operation of this pilot" includes only those  
37 costs associated with the following: The administration of the pilot,

1 the stipend to eligible intensive resource home providers, training for  
2 the providers, consultation for the providers, and program review  
3 consultation.

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