

---

SENATE BILL 6469

---

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senators Kauffman, Regala, Hargrove, Hobbs, Gordon, Keiser, McAuliffe, and Kline

Read first time 01/14/10. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to filling vacancies on the racial  
2 disproportionality advisory committee; amending RCW 74.13.096; and  
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.13.096 and 2009 c 520 s 63 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 (1) The secretary shall convene an advisory committee to analyze  
8 and make recommendations on the disproportionate representation of  
9 children of color in Washington's child welfare system. The department  
10 shall collaborate with the Washington institute for public policy and  
11 private sector entities to develop a methodology for the advisory  
12 committee to follow in conducting a baseline analysis of data from the  
13 child welfare system to determine whether racial disproportionality and  
14 racial disparity exist in this system. The Washington institute for  
15 public policy shall serve as technical staff for the advisory  
16 committee. In determining whether racial disproportionality or racial  
17 disparity exists, the committee shall utilize existing research and  
18 evaluations conducted within Washington state, nationally, and in other

1 states and localities that have similarly analyzed the prevalence of  
2 racial disproportionality and disparity in child welfare.

3 (2) At a minimum, the advisory committee shall examine and analyze:

4 (a) The level of involvement of children of color at each stage in the  
5 state's child welfare system, including the points of entry and exit,  
6 and each point at which a treatment decision is made; (b) the number of  
7 children of color in low-income or single-parent families involved in  
8 the state's child welfare system; (c) the family structures of families  
9 involved in the state's child welfare system; and (d) the outcomes for  
10 children in the existing child welfare system. This analysis shall be  
11 disaggregated by racial and ethnic group, and by geographic region.

12 (3) The committee of not more than fifteen individuals shall  
13 consist of experts in social work, law, child welfare, psychology, or  
14 related fields, at least two tribal representatives, a representative  
15 of the governor's juvenile justice advisory committee, a representative  
16 of a community-based organization involved with child welfare issues,  
17 a representative of the department, a current or former foster care  
18 youth, a current or former foster care parent, and a parent previously  
19 involved with Washington's child welfare system. Committee members  
20 shall be selected as follows: (a) Five members selected by the senate  
21 majority leader; (b) five members selected by the speaker of the house  
22 of representatives; and (c) five members selected by the secretary of  
23 the department. The secretary, the senate majority leader, and the  
24 speaker of the house of representatives shall coordinate appointments  
25 to ensure the representation specified in this subsection is achieved.  
26 In the event a member of the advisory committee resigns, the authority  
27 that selected that member shall appoint his or her successor. After  
28 the advisory committee appointments are finalized, the committee shall  
29 select two individuals to serve as cochairs of the committee, one of  
30 whom shall be a representative from a nongovernmental entity.

31 (4) The secretary shall make reasonable efforts to seek public and  
32 private funding for the advisory committee.

33 (5) Not later than June 1, 2008, the advisory committee created in  
34 subsection (1) of this section shall report to the secretary of the  
35 department on the results of the analysis. If the results of the  
36 analysis indicate disproportionality or disparity exists for any racial  
37 or ethnic group in any region of the state, the committee, in  
38 conjunction with the secretary of the department, shall develop a plan

1 for remedying the disproportionality or disparity. The remediation  
2 plan shall include: (a) Recommendations for administrative and  
3 legislative actions related to appropriate programs and services to  
4 reduce and eliminate disparities in the system and improve the long-  
5 term outcomes for children of color who are served by the system; and  
6 (b) performance measures for implementing the remediation plan. To the  
7 extent possible and appropriate, the remediation plan shall be  
8 developed to integrate the recommendations required in this subsection  
9 with the department's existing compliance plans, training efforts, and  
10 other practice improvement and reform initiatives in progress. The  
11 advisory committee shall be responsible for ongoing evaluation of  
12 current and prospective policies and procedures for their contribution  
13 to or effect on racial disproportionality and disparity.

14 (6) Not later than December 1, 2008, the secretary shall report the  
15 results of the analysis conducted under subsection (2) of this section  
16 and shall describe the remediation plan required under subsection (5)  
17 of this section to the appropriate committees of the legislature with  
18 jurisdiction over policy and fiscal matters relating to children,  
19 families, and human services. Beginning January 1, 2010, the secretary  
20 shall report annually to the appropriate committees of the legislature  
21 on the implementation of the remediation plan, including any measurable  
22 progress made in reducing and eliminating racial disproportionality and  
23 disparity in the state's child welfare system.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Section 1 of this act expires June 30, 2014.

--- END ---