

FINAL BILL REPORT

2SHB 2616

C 163 L 14
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning parents with developmental disabilities involved in dependency proceedings.

Sponsors: House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Freeman, Walsh, Kagi, Roberts, Smith, Orwall, Tarleton and Pollet).

House Committee on Early Learning & Human Services
House Committee on Appropriations
Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Background:

When a child is ordered removed from the home of a parent, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) or supervising agency assumes responsibility for developing a permanency plan no later than 60 days after assuming responsibility. The permanency planning process must include reasonable efforts to return the child to the home of the parent. The supervising agency must submit a written permanency plan to all parties and the court at least 14 days before the scheduled hearing.

The permanency plan must identify the primary goal of the case and may identify alternative goals. These goals could include returning the child to his or her parent, guardian, or legal custodian; adoption; guardianship; permanent legal custody; long-term relative or foster care; successful completion of a responsible living program; or independent living. Unless the court has ordered the filing of a petition to terminate parental rights, the plan must include what steps will be taken to return a child home. All aspects of the plan must include the goal of achieving permanence for the child.

The plan must further specify what services the parents will be offered to allow them to resume custody, the requirements parents must meet to resume custody, and a time limit for each service and requirement.

Summary:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The DSHS shall make reasonable efforts to consult with the Developmental Disability Administration (DDA) to create an appropriate service plan for a parent with a developmental disability who is eligible for services through the DDA and whose child has been ordered removed from his or her home. For parents meeting the statutory definition of developmental disability who are eligible for services through the DDA, the service plan must be tailored to correct a parental deficiency taking into account a parent's disability, and the DSHS must determine the appropriate method to offer services based on the parents disability.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	98	0	
Senate	49	0	(Senate amended)
House	98	0	(House concurred)

Effective: June 12, 2014