
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6479

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Zarelli, Prentice, Rasmussen, and Roach)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to screening and treating children with attachment
2 disorders; creating new sections; making appropriations; and providing
3 expiration dates.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes many children in
6 state care have suffered physical, mental, and emotional abuse and
7 neglect, resulting in an inability to trust or develop healthy
8 relationships with others, a condition referred to as reactive
9 attachment disorder.

10 It is the intent of this act to create a single county pilot
11 project that will deliver a comprehensive and integrated approach to
12 the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of reactive attachment
13 disorder. The goal of the pilot project is to develop an intake tool
14 and evidence-based intervention services to permit early recognition
15 and treatment of children with reactive attachment disorder served by
16 the children and family services division of the department of social
17 and health services.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department shall institute a pilot
2 program providing the services required by this act. The pilot program
3 shall be conducted within the confines of Clark county. The contracted
4 service provider shall be a provider currently providing services to
5 children served by the department within that county.

6 For purposes of this act, "department" means the department of
7 social and health services.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department and the provider selected
9 under the terms of subsection (2) of this section shall meet with
10 experts in the field of reactive attachment disorder to develop an
11 intake tool for assessment of reactive attachment disorder in children.
12 The experts, at a minimum, shall include a representative from the
13 University of Washington's attachment disorder clinic and the
14 University of Washington evidence-based institute.

15 (2) The department shall contract with a provider to implement the
16 intake tool for screening and assessing reactive attachment disorder in
17 children who are placed in out-of-home care or otherwise serviced by
18 the department.

19 (3) The intake tool shall be developed no later than September 1,
20 2008.

21 (4) Once the intake tool is developed, the department shall screen
22 all children expected to remain in foster care for thirty days or more
23 and shall work with the contracted provider to implement the screening
24 tool. During the pilot period, the department shall refer children
25 under age nine with significant scores on the screening tool to the
26 provider selected under this section for further assessment and
27 treatment of reactive attachment disorder.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Additional children may be referred by
29 the department for screening based upon available resources.

30 (2) The department and the provider selected under this act shall
31 meet with experts in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of
32 reactive attachment disorder in developing treatment options that are
33 evidence-based and have been demonstrated to be effective in treating
34 reactive attachment disorder. The experts, at a minimum, shall include
35 the University of Washington's attachment disorder clinic and the
36 University of Washington evidence-based institute. In addition to the

1 services in subsection (1) of this section, the provider shall provide
2 training developed in subsection (2) of this section to enable the
3 intake tool to be effectively and properly utilized by appropriate
4 department personnel.

5 (3) The department shall pay for the screening services provided to
6 a child under this section.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The department shall contract with the
8 provider selected in section 3 of this act for the provision of
9 integrated and evidence-based intervention services for children
10 diagnosed with reactive attachment disorder.

11 (2) In addition to services in subsection (1) of this section, the
12 provider shall provide training identified in section 4 of this act to
13 enable the intervention services to be effectively and properly
14 utilized by appropriate department personnel.

15 (3) The department shall pay for the intervention services provided
16 to a child under this section.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The joint legislative audit and review
18 committee shall conduct a study of the pilot program. The study shall
19 evaluate the effectiveness of the intake tool and treatment service
20 model provided in the pilot program. The committee shall provide a
21 report and recommendations to the legislature no later than December 1,
22 2010.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The sum of one million dollars, or as
24 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year
25 ending June 30, 2009, from the general fund to the department of social
26 and health services for the purposes of this act.

27 (2) The sum of one million dollars, or as much thereof as may be
28 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010,
29 from the general fund to the department of social and health services
30 for the purposes of this act.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) Sections 1 through 5 and 7 of this act
32 expire June 30, 2010.

1 (2) Section 6 of this act expires December 1, 2010.

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