
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6479

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Zarelli, Prentice, Rasmussen, and Roach)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/08.

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

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

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

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

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department shall institute a pilot
18 program providing the services required by this act. The pilot program

1 shall be conducted within the confines of Clark county. The contracted
2 service provider shall be a provider currently providing services to
3 children served by the department within that county.

4 For purposes of this act, "department" means the children and
5 family services division of the department of social and health
6 services.

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

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

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

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

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

29 (2) The department and the provider selected under this act shall
30 meet with experts in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of
31 reactive attachment disorder in developing treatment options that are
32 evidence-based and have been demonstrated to be effective in treating
33 reactive attachment disorder. The experts, at a minimum, shall include
34 the University of Washington's attachment disorder clinic and the
35 University of Washington evidence-based institute. In addition to the
36 services in subsection (1) of this section, the provider shall provide

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The department shall operate the pilot
23 program required by sections 1 through 5 of this act within the funds
24 specifically appropriated therefor. If the costs of the pilot exceeds
25 the appropriation, the department shall adjust the age specified in
26 section 3(4) of this act to conform with the appropriation and shall
27 promptly notify the fiscal committees of the legislature.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** (1) Sections 1 through 5 of this act expire
29 June 30, 2010.

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

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