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**SENATE BILL 6500**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Padden, Darneille, Nguyen, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/20/20. Referred to Committee on Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation.

1 AN ACT Relating to foster care licensing following a foster-  
2 family home licensee's move to a new location; amending RCW  
3 74.15.100; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that at least forty-  
6 six foster home licenses were closed between 2017 and 2019 due to  
7 failure to notify the department of children, youth, and families of  
8 a change of residence within thirty days of relocation. In  
9 recognition of the importance of maintaining foster placements in  
10 Washington, the legislature intends to provide licensing continuation  
11 for foster families without a foster child in their care at the time  
12 of relocation if the licensee meets minimum licensing standards and  
13 completes a home inspection within thirty days of providing notice of  
14 relocation.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.15.100 and 2018 c 284 s 68 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 Each agency shall make application for a license or renewal of  
18 license to the department on forms prescribed by the department. A  
19 licensed agency having foster-family homes under its supervision may  
20 make application for a license on behalf of any such foster-family

1 home. Such a foster home license shall cease to be valid when the  
2 home is no longer under the supervision of that agency. Upon receipt  
3 of such application, the department shall either grant or deny a  
4 license within ninety days unless the application is for licensure as  
5 a foster-family home, in which case RCW 74.15.040 shall govern. A  
6 license shall be granted if the agency meets the minimum requirements  
7 set forth in this chapter (~~(74.15-RCW)~~) and RCW 74.13.031 and the  
8 departmental requirements consistent herewith, except that an initial  
9 license may be issued as provided in RCW 74.15.120. Licenses provided  
10 for in this chapter (~~(74.15-RCW)~~) and RCW 74.13.031 shall be issued  
11 for a period of three years. The licensee, however, shall advise the  
12 secretary of any material change in circumstances which might  
13 constitute grounds for reclassification of license as to category.  
14 The license issued under this chapter is not transferable and applies  
15 only to the licensee. The license shall be limited to a particular  
16 location which shall be stated on the license. For licensed foster-  
17 family homes having an acceptable history of child care, the license  
18 may remain in effect for thirty days after a move, except that this  
19 will apply only if the family remains intact. Licensees must notify  
20 their licensor before moving to a new location and may request a  
21 continuation of the license at the new location. Licensees with no  
22 children placed in their care at the time of a move to a new location  
23 may notify their licensor after moving and the licensor shall  
24 continue their license if their license is in good standing at the  
25 time of the move, the new location meets minimum licensing standards,  
26 and a home inspection is completed within thirty days of notice to  
27 the licensor; such licensees shall be on no-referral status and no  
28 new placements may be made at the new location until the location is  
29 approved by the licensor. At the request of the licensee, the  
30 department shall, within thirty days following a foster-family home  
31 licensee's move to a new location, amend the license to reflect the  
32 new location, provided the new location and the licensee meet minimum  
33 licensing standards.

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