
HOUSE BILL 1754

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Dent and Dye

1 AN ACT Relating to evaluating the performance of the department
2 of children, youth, and families in delivering child welfare
3 services; adding a new section to chapter 43.09 RCW; and creating a
4 new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

7 (1) The department of children, youth, and families was
8 established by the legislature in 2017 based on concerns that state
9 services were not organized and delivered in a way that achieved the
10 optimal outcomes for children, youth, and families. Certain outcome
11 measures were established to determine whether the creation of the
12 department of children, youth, and families is effective in carrying
13 out its important duties to maintain child safety, promote healthy
14 development, provide prevention and intervention services, and
15 deliver early education services.

16 (2) Since the creation of the department of children, youth, and
17 families, dependent youth have continued to experience exceptional
18 placements in hotels and department offices and multiple placements.
19 The disappearance of Oakley Carlson has also raised questions about
20 whether the department is maintaining the safety of children that are
21 dependent and appropriately supporting families.

1 (3) It is necessary and appropriate to require a performance
2 evaluation of the child welfare functions of the department of
3 children, youth, and families to determine whether the creation of
4 that agency has been effective in achieving its stated goals.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.09
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 By December 1, 2024, the state auditor must conduct a
8 comprehensive evaluation of the child welfare functions of the
9 department of children, youth, and families established under chapter
10 43.216 RCW and deliver a report, including a conclusion,
11 recommendations for improvement, and recommendations for either
12 maintaining or removing the child welfare functions from the
13 department of children, youth, and families based on whether the
14 establishment of the department of children, youth, and families has:

15 (1) Resulted in improved outcomes for children, youth, and
16 families receiving child welfare services according to the outcome
17 measures established for the department of children, youth, and
18 families included in RCW 43.216.015; or

19 (2) Resulted in systemic efficiencies or improvements that
20 improve the delivery of services to children, youth, and families
21 receiving child welfare services.

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