
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5803

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senate Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Shin, Kauffman, and Berkey)

READ FIRST TIME 02/23/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to the adoption support program; and amending RCW
2 74.13.109 and 74.13.250.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.13.109 and 1990 c 285 s 7 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) The secretary shall issue rules and regulations to assist in
7 the administration of the program of adoption support authorized by RCW
8 26.33.320 and 74.13.100 through 74.13.145.

9 (2) Disbursements from the appropriations available from the
10 general fund shall be made pursuant to such rules and regulations and
11 pursuant to agreements conforming thereto to be made by the secretary
12 with parents for the purpose of supporting the adoption of children in,
13 or likely to be placed in, foster homes or child caring institutions
14 who are found by the secretary to be difficult to place in adoption
15 because of physical or other reasons; including, but not limited to,
16 physical or mental handicap, emotional disturbance, ethnic background,
17 language, race, color, age, or sibling grouping.

18 (3) Such agreements shall meet the following criteria:

1 ~~((+1))~~ (a) The child whose adoption is to be supported pursuant to
2 such agreement shall be or have been a child hard to place in adoption.

3 ~~((+2))~~ (b) Such agreement must relate to a child who was or is
4 residing in a foster home or child-caring institution or a child who,
5 in the judgment of the secretary, is both eligible for, and likely to
6 be placed in, either a foster home or a child-caring institution.

7 ~~((+3))~~ (c) Such agreement shall provide that adoption support
8 shall not continue beyond the time that the adopted child reaches
9 eighteen years of age, becomes emancipated, dies, or otherwise ceases
10 to need support, provided that if the secretary shall find that
11 continuing dependency of such child after such child reaches eighteen
12 years of age warrants the continuation of support pursuant to RCW
13 26.33.320 and 74.13.100 through 74.13.145 the secretary may do so,
14 subject to all the provisions of RCW 26.33.320 and 74.13.100 through
15 74.13.145, including annual review of the amount of such support.

16 ~~((+4))~~ (d) Any prospective parent who is to be a party to such
17 agreement shall be a person who has the character, judgment, sense of
18 responsibility, and disposition which make him or her suitable as an
19 adoptive parent of such child.

20 (4) Six months before an adoption is finalized under chapter 26.33
21 RCW and RCW 74.13.100 through 74.13.145, the department must provide to
22 the prospective adoptive parents, in writing, information describing
23 the limits of the adoption support program including the following
24 information:

25 (a) The limits on monthly in-cash payments to adoptive families;

26 (b) The limits on the availability of mental health services and
27 the funds with which to pay for these services;

28 (c) How to access mental health services for children receiving
29 adoption support services;

30 (d) The limits on the one-time cash payments to adoptive families
31 for expenses related to their adopted children;

32 (e) That payment for residential or group care is not available for
33 adopted children under this chapter;

34 (f) The risks inherent in adopting a child from the department.

35 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.13.250 and 1990 c 284 s 2 are each amended to read
36 as follows:

37 (1) Preservice training is recognized as a valuable tool to reduce

1 placement disruptions, the length of time children are in care, and
2 foster parent turnover rates. Preservice training also assists
3 potential foster parents in making their final decisions about foster
4 parenting and assists social service agencies in obtaining information
5 about whether to approve potential foster parents.

6 (2) Foster parent preservice training shall include information
7 about the potential impact of placement on foster children; social
8 service agency administrative processes; the requirements,
9 responsibilities, expectations, and skills needed to be a foster
10 parent; attachment, separation, and loss issues faced by birth parents,
11 foster children, and foster parents; child management and discipline;
12 birth family relationships; information on the limits of the adoption
13 support program as provided in RCW 74.13.109(4); and helping children
14 leave foster care. Preservice training shall assist applicants in
15 making informed decisions about whether they want to be foster parents.
16 Preservice training shall be designed to enable the agency to assess
17 the ability, readiness, and appropriateness of families to be foster
18 parents. As a decision tool, effective preservice training provides
19 potential foster parents with enough information to make an appropriate
20 decision, affords potential foster parents an opportunity to discuss
21 their decision with others and consider its implications for their
22 family, clarifies foster family expectations, presents a realistic
23 picture of what foster parenting involves, and allows potential foster
24 parents to consider and explore the different types of children they
25 might serve.

26 (3) Preservice training shall be completed prior to the issuance of
27 a foster care license, except that the department may, on a case by
28 case basis, issue a written waiver that allows the foster parent to
29 complete the training after licensure, so long as the training is
30 completed within ninety days following licensure.

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