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**SENATE BILL 5860**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senators King, Hobbs, Saldaña, Cleveland, and Wilson, C.

1 AN ACT Relating to kinship care; and amending RCW 74.13.600.

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

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.13.600 and 2018 c 284 s 61 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) For the purposes of this section, "kin" means persons  
6 eighteen years of age or older to whom the child is related by blood,  
7 adoption, or marriage, including marriages that have been dissolved,  
8 and means: (a) Any person denoted by the prefix "grand" or "great";  
9 (b) sibling, whether full, half, or step; (c) uncle or aunt; (d)  
10 nephew or niece; or (e) first cousin.

11 (2) The department shall plan, design, and implement strategies  
12 to prioritize the placement of children with willing and able kin  
13 when out-of-home placement is required.

14 These strategies must include at least the following:

15 (a) Development of standardized, statewide procedures to be used  
16 when searching for kin of children prior to out-of-home placement.  
17 The procedures must include a requirement that documentation be  
18 maintained in the child's case record that identifies kin, and  
19 documentation that identifies the assessment criteria and procedures  
20 that were followed during all kin searches. The procedures must be  
21 used when a child is placed in out-of-home care under authority of

1 chapter 13.34 RCW, when a petition is filed under RCW 13.32A.140, or  
2 when a child is placed under a voluntary placement agreement. To  
3 assist with implementation of the procedures, the department shall  
4 request that the juvenile court require parents to disclose to the  
5 department all contact information for available and appropriate kin  
6 within two weeks of an entered order. For placements under signed  
7 voluntary agreements, the department shall encourage the parents to  
8 disclose to the department all contact information for available and  
9 appropriate kin within two weeks of the date the parent signs the  
10 voluntary placement agreement.

11 (b) Development of procedures for conducting active outreach  
12 efforts to identify and locate kin during all searches. The  
13 procedures must include at least the following elements:

14 (i) Reasonable efforts to interview known kin, friends, teachers,  
15 and other identified community members who may have knowledge of the  
16 child's kin, within sixty days of the child entering out-of-home  
17 care;

18 (ii) Increased use of those procedures determined by research to  
19 be the most effective methods of promoting reunification efforts,  
20 permanency planning, and placement decisions;

21 (iii) Contacts with kin identified through outreach efforts and  
22 interviews under this subsection as part of permanency planning  
23 activities and change of placement discussions;

24 (iv) Establishment of a process for ongoing contact with kin who  
25 express interest in being considered as a placement resource for the  
26 child; and

27 (v) A requirement that when the decision is made to not place the  
28 child with any kin, the department provides documentation as part of  
29 the child's individual service and safety plan that clearly  
30 identifies the rationale for the decision and corrective action or  
31 actions the kin must take to be considered as a viable placement  
32 option.

33 (3) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create an  
34 entitlement to services or to create judicial authority to order the  
35 provision of services to any person or family if the services are  
36 unavailable or unsuitable or the child or family is not eligible for  
37 such services.

1       (4) The department shall provide maintenance payments to  
2 unlicensed kinship caregivers with children placed by the department  
3 at the same rate as licensed foster parents.

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