
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5882

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

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

READ FIRST TIME 02/25/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to an evaluation of two recommendations made by the
2 racial disproportionality advisory committee; adding a new section to
3 chapter 13.34 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that research
6 conducted by the Washington state institute for public policy released
7 in June 2008, demonstrates that racial disproportionality exists in
8 Washington's child welfare system and that the greatest
9 disproportionality occurs when the initial referral to child protective
10 services is made and when the decision is made to place a child in out-
11 of-home care. The institute's research also demonstrates that children
12 of African-American, Native American, and Latino families have
13 disproportionately longer lengths of stay in foster care.

14 (2) The legislature finds further that the department of social and
15 health services, in a December 2008 report issued pursuant to
16 Substitute House Bill No. 1472 of 2007, identified initial
17 recommendations for remediation of racial diproportionality, including
18 examining specific current child welfare practices, structured

1 decision-making and family team decision-making, to determine whether
2 and how these practices might result in reducing or eliminating racial
3 disproportionality.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 13.34 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Within amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, or
7 within funding made available by private grant or contribution, the
8 Washington state institute for public policy shall evaluate the
9 department of social and health services' use of structured decision-
10 making practices and implementation of the family team decision-making
11 model to determine whether and how those child protection and child
12 welfare efforts result in reducing disproportionate representation of
13 African-American, Native American, and Latino children in the state's
14 child welfare system. The institute shall analyze the points in the
15 system at which current data reflect the greatest levels of
16 disproportionality. The institute shall report its findings to the
17 legislature and the department of social and health services by
18 September 1, 2010.

19 (2) If adequate funding is not made available through state
20 appropriation or through private grant or contribution to
21 simultaneously study the impact on racial disproportionality of both
22 the structured decision-making process and family team decision-making
23 model, the institute shall first study and report on the family team
24 decision-making model. The department of social and health services
25 and the Washington state institute for public policy jointly, shall:

26 (a) Promptly complete and execute a data sharing agreement to
27 comply with the department's confidential or records requirements and
28 to provide the institute with data and other information necessary to
29 conduct its evaluation; and

30 (b) Identify potential sources of private funding to supplement any
31 state appropriated amounts.

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