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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1430**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** House Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning (originally sponsored by Representatives Eslick and Caldier)

1 AN ACT Relating to improving communication between the department  
2 of children, youth, and families and caregivers; creating new  
3 sections; and providing expiration dates.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of children, youth, and  
6 families shall contract with an external organization to:

7 (a) Conduct a performance evaluation of department of children,  
8 youth, and families policies, procedures, and practices related to  
9 communication between the department and caregivers of children  
10 receiving child welfare services;

11 (b) Provide recommendations regarding improving department of  
12 children, youth, and families policies, procedures, and practices  
13 related to communication between the department and caregivers of  
14 children receiving child welfare services; and

15 (c) Consult with existing or former foster parents and a  
16 statewide organization dedicated to supporting adoptive, foster,  
17 kinship, and birth parent voices in conducting the evaluation and  
18 providing recommendations required under this subsection (1).

19 (2) The department of children, youth, and families shall make  
20 the evaluation and recommendations from the external organization

1 under subsection (1) of this section available to the public on its  
2 website.

3 (3) This section expires June 30, 2025.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By October 1, 2024, and in compliance  
5 with RCW 43.01.036, the department of children, youth, and families  
6 shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the  
7 legislature and the governor describing:

8 (a) How the department of children, youth, and families could  
9 implement an automated notification system that would provide  
10 electronic or telephonic notifications to caregivers of children  
11 receiving child welfare services regarding upcoming changes in  
12 placements for the child, court hearings, or other relevant and  
13 appropriate information; and

14 (b) Any statutory, policy, or funding changes needed to  
15 accomplish the automated notification system described in (a) of this  
16 subsection.

17 (2) This section expires April 1, 2025.

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