
HOUSE BILL 1605

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Dent, Peterson, Griffey, Caldier, Goodman, Volz, Stanford, Lovick, Reeves, Klippert, Frame, Schmick, Harris, Appleton, Kretz, DeBolt, Cody, Macri, Orwall, Shea, Blake, and Kloba

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring traumatic brain injury screenings
2 for children entering the foster care system; and amending RCW
3 74.14A.050.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.14A.050 and 2003 c 207 s 9 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The secretary shall:

8 ~~((1))~~(a) Consult with relevant qualified professionals to
9 develop a set of minimum guidelines to be used for identifying all
10 children who are in a state-assisted support system, whether at-home
11 or out-of-home, who are likely to need long-term care or assistance,
12 because they face physical, emotional, medical, mental, or other
13 long-term challenges(~~(;—(b))~~). The guidelines must, at a minimum,
14 consider the following criteria for identifying children in need of
15 long-term care or assistance:

16 (i) Placement within the foster care system for two years or
17 more;

18 (ii) Multiple foster care placements;

19 (iii) Repeated unsuccessful efforts to be placed with a permanent
20 adoptive family;

21 (iv) Chronic behavioral or educational problems;

1 (v) Repetitive criminal acts or offenses;

2 (vi) Failure to comply with court-ordered disciplinary actions
3 and other imposed guidelines of behavior, including drug and alcohol
4 rehabilitation; and

5 (vii) Chronic physical, emotional, medical, mental, or other
6 similar conditions necessitating long-term care or assistance;

7 ~~((2))~~ (b) Develop programs that are necessary for the long-term
8 care of children and youth that are identified for the purposes of
9 this section. Programs must: ~~((a))~~ (i) Effectively address the
10 educational, physical, emotional, mental, and medical needs of
11 children and youth; and ~~((b))~~ (ii) incorporate an array of family
12 support options, to individual needs and choices of the child and
13 family. The programs must be ready for implementation by January 1,
14 1995;

15 ~~((3))~~ (c) Conduct an evaluation of all children currently
16 within the foster care agency caseload to identify those children who
17 meet the criteria set forth in this section. All children entering
18 the foster care system must be evaluated for identification of long-
19 term needs, including a screening for traumatic brain injury, within
20 thirty days of placement~~((7))~~.

21 ~~((4))~~ (2)(a) As a result of the passage of chapter 232, Laws of
22 2000, the department is conducting a pilot project to do a
23 comparative analysis of a variety of assessment instruments to
24 determine the most effective tools and methods for evaluation of
25 children. The pilot project may extend through August 31, 2001. The
26 department shall report to the appropriate committees in the senate
27 and house of representatives by September 30, 2001, on the results of
28 the pilot project. The department shall select an assessment
29 instrument that can be implemented within available resources. The
30 department shall complete statewide implementation by December 31,
31 2001. The department shall report to the appropriate committees in
32 the senate and house of representatives on how the use of the
33 selected assessment instrument has affected department policies, by
34 no later than December 31, 2002, December 31, 2004, and December 31,
35 2006~~((7-5))~~. The secretary shall use the assessment tool developed
36 pursuant to this subsection ~~((4) of this section)~~ in making out-of-
37 home placement decisions for children;

38 ~~((6))~~ (b) Each region of the department shall make the
39 appropriate number of referrals to the foster care assessment program
40 to ensure that the services offered by the program are used to the

1 extent funded pursuant to the department's contract with the program.
2 The department shall report to the legislature by November 30, 2000,
3 on the number of referrals, by region, to the foster care assessment
4 program. If the regions are not referring an adequate number of cases
5 to the program, the department shall include in its report an
6 explanation of what action it is or has taken to ensure that the
7 referrals are adequate;

8 ~~((7))~~ (c) The department shall report to the legislature by
9 December 15, 2000, on how it will use the foster care assessment
10 program model to assess children as they enter out-of-home care;

11 ~~((8))~~ (d) The department is to accomplish the tasks listed in
12 ~~((subsections—(4)) (a) through ((7)) (c) of this ((section))~~
13 subsection within existing resources~~((7))~~.

14 ~~((9))~~ (3) The secretary shall also study and develop:

15 (a) A comprehensive plan for the evaluation and identification of
16 all children and youth in need of long-term care or assistance,
17 including, but not limited to, ~~((the mentally ill, developmentally~~
18 disabled, medically fragile, seriously emotionally or behaviorally
19 disabled, and physically impaired; ~~(10) Study and develop~~
20 individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities, medical
21 fragility, serious emotional or behavioral disabilities, and physical
22 impairments;

23 (b) A plan for ~~((the))~~ children and youth in need of long-term
24 care or assistance to ensure the coordination of services between the
25 department's divisions and between other state agencies who are
26 involved with the child or youth;

27 ~~((11) Study and develop)~~ (c) Guidelines for transitional
28 services, between long-term care programs, based on the person's age
29 or mental, physical, emotional, or medical condition; and

30 ~~((12) Study and develop)~~ (d) A statutory proposal for the
31 emancipation of minors.

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