

SHB 1867 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Human Services, Mental Health & Housing

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 **"NEW SECTION.** **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a large number
4 of foster youth experience homelessness. The legislature intends that
5 individuals who are eligible for extended foster care services are
6 able to receive those services to help prevent them from experiencing
7 homelessness. The 2016 office of homeless youth annual report
8 identifies ensuring that youth exiting public systems are not
9 released into homelessness as a goal and recommends expanding options
10 for youth to enroll in extended foster care.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 74.13.031 and 2015 c 240 s 3 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (1) The department and supervising agencies shall develop,
14 administer, supervise, and monitor a coordinated and comprehensive
15 plan that establishes, aids, and strengthens services for the
16 protection and care of runaway, dependent, or neglected children.

17 (2) Within available resources, the department and supervising
18 agencies shall recruit an adequate number of prospective adoptive and
19 foster homes, both regular and specialized, i.e. homes for children
20 of ethnic minority, including Indian homes for Indian children,
21 sibling groups, handicapped and emotionally disturbed, teens,
22 pregnant and parenting teens, and the department shall annually
23 report to the governor and the legislature concerning the
24 department's and supervising agency's success in: (a) Meeting the
25 need for adoptive and foster home placements; (b) reducing the foster
26 parent turnover rate; (c) completing home studies for legally free
27 children; and (d) implementing and operating the passport program
28 required by RCW 74.13.285. The report shall include a section
29 entitled "Foster Home Turn-Over, Causes and Recommendations."

1 (3) The department shall investigate complaints of any recent act
2 or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker that results
3 in death, serious physical or emotional harm, or sexual abuse or
4 exploitation, or that presents an imminent risk of serious harm, and
5 on the basis of the findings of such investigation, offer child
6 welfare services in relation to the problem to such parents, legal
7 custodians, or persons serving in loco parentis, and/or bring the
8 situation to the attention of an appropriate court, or another
9 community agency. An investigation is not required of nonaccidental
10 injuries which are clearly not the result of a lack of care or
11 supervision by the child's parents, legal custodians, or persons
12 serving in loco parentis. If the investigation reveals that a crime
13 against a child may have been committed, the department shall notify
14 the appropriate law enforcement agency.

15 (4) As provided in RCW 26.44.030(11), the department may respond
16 to a report of child abuse or neglect by using the family assessment
17 response.

18 (5) The department or supervising agencies shall offer, on a
19 voluntary basis, family reconciliation services to families who are
20 in conflict.

21 (6) The department or supervising agencies shall monitor
22 placements of children in out-of-home care and in-home dependencies
23 to assure the safety, well-being, and quality of care being provided
24 is within the scope of the intent of the legislature as defined in
25 RCW 74.13.010 and 74.15.010. Under this section children in out-of-
26 home care and in-home dependencies and their caregivers shall receive
27 a private and individual face-to-face visit each month. The
28 department and the supervising agencies shall randomly select no less
29 than ten percent of the caregivers currently providing care to
30 receive one unannounced face-to-face visit in the caregiver's home
31 per year. No caregiver will receive an unannounced visit through the
32 random selection process for two consecutive years. If the caseworker
33 makes a good faith effort to conduct the unannounced visit to a
34 caregiver and is unable to do so, that month's visit to that
35 caregiver need not be unannounced. The department and supervising
36 agencies are encouraged to group monthly visits to caregivers by
37 geographic area so that in the event an unannounced visit cannot be
38 completed, the caseworker may complete other required monthly visits.
39 The department shall use a method of random selection that does not
40 cause a fiscal impact to the department.

1 The department or supervising agencies shall conduct the monthly
2 visits with children and caregivers to whom it is providing child
3 welfare services.

4 (7) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority
5 to accept custody of children from parents and to accept custody of
6 children from juvenile courts, where authorized to do so under law,
7 to provide child welfare services including placement for adoption,
8 to provide for the routine and necessary medical, dental, and mental
9 health care, or necessary emergency care of the children, and to
10 provide for the physical care of such children and make payment of
11 maintenance costs if needed. Except where required by Public Law
12 95-608 (25 U.S.C. Sec. 1915), no private adoption agency which
13 receives children for adoption from the department shall discriminate
14 on the basis of race, creed, or color when considering applications
15 in their placement for adoption.

16 (8) The department and supervising agency shall have authority to
17 provide temporary shelter to children who have run away from home and
18 who are admitted to crisis residential centers.

19 (9) The department and supervising agency shall have authority to
20 purchase care for children.

21 (10) The department shall establish a children's services
22 advisory committee with sufficient members representing supervising
23 agencies which shall assist the secretary in the development of a
24 partnership plan for utilizing resources of the public and private
25 sectors, and advise on all matters pertaining to child welfare,
26 licensing of child care agencies, adoption, and services related
27 thereto. At least one member shall represent the adoption community.

28 (11)(a) The department and supervising agencies shall provide
29 continued extended foster care services to nonminor dependents who
30 are:

31 (i) Enrolled in a secondary education program or a secondary
32 education equivalency program;

33 (ii) Enrolled and participating in a postsecondary academic or
34 postsecondary vocational education program;

35 (iii) Participating in a program or activity designed to promote
36 employment or remove barriers to employment;

37 (iv) Engaged in employment for eighty hours or more per month; or

38 (v) Not able to engage in any of the activities described in
39 (a)(i) through (iv) of this subsection due to a documented medical
40 condition.

1 (b) To be eligible for extended foster care services, the
2 nonminor dependent must have been dependent and in foster care at the
3 time that he or she reached age eighteen years. If the dependency
4 case of the nonminor dependent was dismissed pursuant to RCW
5 13.34.267, he or she may receive extended foster care services
6 pursuant to a voluntary placement agreement under RCW 74.13.336 or
7 pursuant to an order of dependency issued by the court under RCW
8 13.34.268. A nonminor dependent whose dependency case was dismissed
9 by the court must have requested extended foster care services before
10 reaching age nineteen years. Eligible nonminor dependents may
11 unenroll and reenroll in extended foster care through a voluntary
12 placement agreement once between ages eighteen and twenty-one.

13 (c) The department shall develop and implement rules regarding
14 youth eligibility requirements.

15 (d) The department shall make efforts to ensure that extended
16 foster care services maximize medicaid reimbursements. This must
17 include the department ensuring that health and mental health
18 extended foster care providers participate in medicaid, unless the
19 condition of the extended foster care youth requires specialty care
20 that is not available among participating medicaid providers or there
21 are no participating medicaid providers in the area. The department
22 shall coordinate other services to maximize federal resources and the
23 most cost-efficient delivery of services to extended foster care
24 youth.

25 (e) The department shall allow a youth who has received extended
26 foster care services, but lost his or her eligibility, to reenter the
27 extended foster care program once through a voluntary placement
28 agreement when he or she meets the eligibility criteria again.

29 (12) The department shall have authority to provide adoption
30 support benefits, or relative guardianship subsidies on behalf of
31 youth ages eighteen to twenty-one years who achieved permanency
32 through adoption or a relative guardianship at age sixteen or older
33 and who meet the criteria described in subsection (11) of this
34 section.

35 (13) The department shall refer cases to the division of child
36 support whenever state or federal funds are expended for the care and
37 maintenance of a child, including a child with a developmental
38 disability who is placed as a result of an action under chapter 13.34
39 RCW, unless the department finds that there is good cause not to
40 pursue collection of child support against the parent or parents of

1 the child. Cases involving individuals age eighteen through twenty
2 shall not be referred to the division of child support unless
3 required by federal law.

4 (14) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority
5 within funds appropriated for foster care services to purchase care
6 for Indian children who are in the custody of a federally recognized
7 Indian tribe or tribally licensed child-placing agency pursuant to
8 parental consent, tribal court order, or state juvenile court order.
9 The purchase of such care is exempt from the requirements of chapter
10 74.13B RCW and may be purchased from the federally recognized Indian
11 tribe or tribally licensed child-placing agency, and shall be subject
12 to the same eligibility standards and rates of support applicable to
13 other children for whom the department purchases care.

14 Notwithstanding any other provision of RCW 13.32A.170 through
15 13.32A.200 ((and 74.13.032 through)), 43.185C.295, 74.13.035, and
16 74.13.036, or of this section all services to be provided by the
17 department under subsections (4), (7), and (8) of this section,
18 subject to the limitations of these subsections, may be provided by
19 any program offering such services funded pursuant to Titles II and
20 III of the federal juvenile justice and delinquency prevention act of
21 1974.

22 (15) Within amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the
23 supervising agency or department shall provide preventive services to
24 families with children that prevent or shorten the duration of an
25 out-of-home placement.

26 (16) The department and supervising agencies shall have authority
27 to provide independent living services to youths, including
28 individuals who have attained eighteen years of age, and have not
29 attained twenty-one years of age who are or have been in foster care.

30 (17) The department and supervising agencies shall consult at
31 least quarterly with foster parents, including members of the foster
32 parent association of Washington state, for the purpose of receiving
33 information and comment regarding how the department and supervising
34 agencies are performing the duties and meeting the obligations
35 specified in this section and RCW 74.13.250 and 74.13.320 regarding
36 the recruitment of foster homes, reducing foster parent turnover
37 rates, providing effective training for foster parents, and
38 administering a coordinated and comprehensive plan that strengthens
39 services for the protection of children. Consultation shall occur at
40 the regional and statewide levels.

1 (18)(a) The department shall, within current funding levels,
2 place on its public web site a document listing the duties and
3 responsibilities the department has to a child subject to a
4 dependency petition including, but not limited to, the following:

5 (i) Reasonable efforts, including the provision of services,
6 toward reunification of the child with his or her family;

7 (ii) Sibling visits subject to the restrictions in RCW
8 13.34.136(2)(b)(ii);

9 (iii) Parent-child visits;

10 (iv) Statutory preference for placement with a relative or other
11 suitable person, if appropriate; and

12 (v) Statutory preference for an out-of-home placement that allows
13 the child to remain in the same school or school district, if
14 practical and in the child's best interests.

15 (b) The document must be prepared in conjunction with a
16 community-based organization and must be updated as needed.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The Washington state institute for
18 public policy shall conduct a study measuring the outcomes for youth
19 who have received extended foster care services pursuant to RCW
20 74.13.031(11). The study should include measurements of any savings
21 to state and local governments. The study should compare the outcomes
22 for youth who have received extended foster care services pursuant to
23 RCW 74.13.031(11) with youth who aged out of foster care when they
24 reached eighteen years of age. To the extent possible, the study
25 should also include a comparison of other state extended foster care
26 programs and a review of studies that have been completed measuring
27 the outcomes of those programs.

28 (2) The Washington state institute for public policy shall issue
29 a report containing its preliminary findings to the legislature by
30 December 1, 2018, and a final report by December 1, 2019.

31 (3) The Washington state institute for public policy is
32 authorized to accept nonstate funds to conduct the study required in
33 subsection (1) of this section.

34 (4) This section expires July 1, 2020.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of
36 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
37 provided by June 30, 2017, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
38 act is null and void."

1 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "youth;" strike the
2 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 74.13.031; creating
3 new sections; and providing an expiration date."

EFFECT: Eligible nonminor dependents may unenroll and reenroll in extended foster care through a voluntary placement agreement once between the ages of 18 and 21. The department of social and health services shall allow a youth who has received extended foster care services, but lost his or her eligibility, to reenter the extended foster care program once through a voluntary placement agreement when he or she meets the eligibility criteria again.

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