
HOUSE BILL 1734

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Kagi, Walsh, Rodne, Fey, Jinkins, Pettigrew,
Carlyle, and McBride

Read first time 01/27/15. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to creation of the one family one team public-
2 private court innovation demonstration; adding new sections to
3 chapter 2.56 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 recognizes that
6 families across the state are impacted by decisions made in
7 dependency court proceedings. While the family and juvenile court
8 improvement program has led to improvements in dependency court
9 process, including timely resolution of cases, more needs to be done
10 to ensure good outcomes for families.

11 (2) The legislature intends to support a public-private
12 initiative to design and fund demonstration court sites that provide
13 trained, committed judicial leaders, an early resolution
14 intervention, and a dedicated multidisciplinary decision-making team
15 in child welfare court cases. The early resolution demonstration
16 initiative that will build upon the improvements achieved by the
17 family and juvenile court improvement program.

18 (3) An evaluation of these sites will determine whether the early
19 resolution component improves outcomes for families. These
20 evaluations will then be available to courts across the state so that
21 they can adapt their practices to ensure better outcomes.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 2.56 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The administrative office of the courts shall participate in
4 the one family one team public-private partnership, a nongovernmental
5 public-private partnership that supports innovation in dependency
6 court proceedings that provide well-trained and committed judicial
7 leaders, an early resolution intervention, and a multidisciplinary
8 team.

9 (2) The one family one team public-private partnership may
10 receive staffing support and meeting space from a private nonprofit
11 organization dedicated to reforming the juvenile justice and child
12 welfare systems in the state if that organization has the capacity to
13 host the partnership and the partnership members agree to that
14 organization.

15 (3) The public-private partnership shall identify private funding
16 that will match public investment in the court demonstration program
17 described in section 3 of this act. Public funding of the program is
18 contingent on the commitment of private match.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 2.56 RCW
20 to read as follows:

21 (1) As used in this section, "early resolution intervention"
22 means a legal or social service program used during the early stages
23 of child welfare cases used in an effort to resolve these cases
24 sooner.

25 (2) The one family one team public-private partnership shall
26 spend its first year designing and planning a court demonstration
27 program to provide grants to superior courts wishing to implement the
28 model, on a competitive basis.

29 (3) The partnership shall:

30 (a) Convene a planning and design committee composed of
31 stakeholders and experts to identify an early resolution intervention
32 model. A representative from the superior courts and a member of the
33 private partners supporting the initiative shall cochair the
34 committee. The committee shall identify the early resolution
35 intervention model by December 1, 2015;

36 (b) By January 1, 2016, the partnership shall provide to the
37 appropriate committees of the legislature a statement of the public
38 and private funding required in order to provide demonstration grants
39 to four counties; and

1 (c) Design grant guidelines and selection criteria for grant
2 recipients based on a contractual agreement with the administrative
3 office of the courts. If public funding is made available, the
4 partnership shall administer a competitive grant program open to any
5 superior court in the state. In order for any application to be
6 considered, the grant application must include:

7 (i) Agreement between the superior court, the department of
8 social and health services, the office of the attorney general, and
9 the office of public defense to fully participate in the court
10 demonstration program;

11 (ii) Commitment to provide judicial officers with ongoing
12 training in issues unique to child welfare court;

13 (iii) Assignment of judicial officers to courts responsible for
14 family and juvenile matters for a minimum of two years and allow
15 those judicial officers the option of remaining in family and
16 juvenile court beyond the minimum assignment length;

17 (iv) Creation of a team-based approach in child welfare cases of
18 professionals working together toward solving the problems facing
19 each family;

20 (v) Provision of cross-system training to the team of
21 professionals in subject areas unique to child welfare proceedings;

22 (vi) Implementation of an early resolution component as
23 determined by (a) of this subsection; and

24 (vii) Participation in an evaluation conducted by a research
25 entity with experience and expertise in child welfare systems
26 research. Participation must include sharing data, identifying
27 treatment and control groups, identifying research questions, and
28 establishing outcome measures for all components in the model for all
29 test sites.

30 (4) The grants administered by the partnership through contract
31 with the administrative office of the courts in this section may only
32 be used to support programs or processes aligned with the criteria
33 identified in subsection (3)(c) of this section and may not be used
34 to support general court operations.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 2.56 RCW
36 to read as follows:

37 (1) The one family one team public-private partnership account is
38 hereby created in the custody of the state treasurer. All receipts
39 from funds appropriated by the legislature and funds received from

1 other sources for the one family one team public-private partnership
2 must be deposited in the account. Expenditures from the account may
3 only be used for supporting child welfare court programs and
4 processes that foster judicial leadership, promote innovative
5 practice including early resolution interventions, and adhere to a
6 team-based approach.

7 (2) Beginning August 1, 2015, and subject to availability of
8 funds in the account, the administrative office of the courts shall
9 only use funds in the account to contract with the one family one
10 team public-private partnership to design and administer planning
11 grants.

12 (3) The administrative office of the courts oversees and is the
13 lead state agency for the account. Only the director of the
14 administrative office of the courts or the director's designee may
15 authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to
16 allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is
17 not required for expenditures.

18 (4) Authorizations for expenditures may be given only after
19 private funds are committed.

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