

(2) The department of ecology may grant an exemption under subsection (1) of this section if the department of ecology finds the exemption is warranted due to the physical characteristics within the town.

*Sec. 14 was vetoed, see message at end of chapter.

Passed the Senate April 24, 1987.

Passed the House April 16, 1987.

Approved by the Governor May 19, 1987, with the exception of certain items which were vetoed.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 19, 1987.

Note: Governor's explanation of partial veto is as follows:

"I am returning herewith, without my approval as to sections 10 and 14, Engrossed Senate Bill No. 5556, entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to flood control."

Section 10 is a technical amendment to a section of the code that was repealed by Senate Bill 5427, already signed into law. I have eliminated this section of the bill to avoid confusion.

Section 14 would allow the Department of Ecology to grant an exemption for certain towns from statutory prohibitions against some types of construction and rehabilitation within designated floodways. Section 4 of the bill includes language that allows repairs, reconstruction and improvements to an existing structure. Since the state supplements the national flood insurance program, any exemptions from this prohibition that go beyond the examples allowed under section 4 would represent a needless risk of public funds.

With the exception of sections 10 and 14, Engrossed Senate Bill No. 5556 is approved."

CHAPTER 524

[Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5659]

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

AN ACT Relating to child protective services; amending RCW 13.32A.170, 13.34.020, 13.34.030, 13.34.120, 13.34.180, 13.34.190, 26.44.010, 26.44.020, 26.44.030, 26.44.053, 26.44.070, 74.15.030, and 74.15.060; and reenacting and amending RCW 13.34.060.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Sec. 1. Section 31, chapter 155, Laws of 1979 as last amended by section 10, chapter 257, Laws of 1985 and RCW 13.32A.170 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The court shall hold a fact-finding hearing to consider a proper petition and may approve or deny alternative residential placement giving due weight to the intent of the legislature that families(~~(, absent compelling reasons to the contrary, shall remain together and that parents have the right to place reasonable rules and restrictions upon their children))~~ have the right to place reasonable restrictions and rules upon their children, appropriate to the individual child's developmental level. The court may appoint legal counsel and/or a guardian ad litem to represent the child and advise parents of their right to be represented by legal counsel. The court

may approve an order stating that the child shall be placed in a residence other than the home of his or her parent only if it is established by a preponderance of the evidence that:

- (a) The petition is not capricious;
- (b) The petitioner, if a parent or the child, has made a reasonable effort to resolve the conflict;
- (c) The conflict which exists cannot be resolved by delivery of services to the family during continued placement of the child in the parental home; and
- (d) Reasonable efforts have been made to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the child's home and to make it possible for the child to return home.

The court may not grant a petition filed by the child or the department if it is established that the petition is based only upon a dislike of reasonable rules or reasonable discipline established by the parent.

(2) The order approving out-of-home placement shall direct the department to submit a disposition plan for a three-month placement of the child that is designed to reunite the family and resolve the family conflict. Such plan shall delineate any conditions or limitations on parental involvement. In making the order, the court shall further direct the department to make recommendations, as to which agency or person should have physical custody of the child, as to which parental powers should be awarded to such agency or person, and as to parental visitation rights. The court may direct the department to consider the cultural heritage of the child in making its recommendations.

(3) The hearing to consider the recommendations of the department for a three-month disposition plan shall be set no later than fourteen days after the approval of the court of a petition to approve alternative residential placement. Each party shall be notified of the time and place of such disposition hearing.

(4) If the court approves or denies a petition for an alternative residential placement, a written statement of the reasons shall be filed. If the court denies a petition requesting that a child be placed in a residence other than the home of his or her parent, the court shall enter an order requiring the child to remain at or return to the home of his or her parent.

(5) If the court denies the petition, the court shall impress upon the party filing the petition of the legislative intent to restrict the proceedings to situations where a family conflict is so great that it cannot be resolved by the provision of in-home services.

(6) A child who fails to comply with a court order directing that the child remain at or return to the home of his or her parent shall be subject to contempt proceedings, as provided in this chapter, but only if the noncompliance occurs within ninety calendar days after the day of the order.

Sec. 2. Section 30, chapter 291, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. and RCW 13.34.020 are each amended to read as follows:

The legislature declares that the family unit is a fundamental resource of American life which should be nurtured. Toward the continuance of this principle, the legislature declares that the family unit should remain intact ~~((in the absence of compelling evidence to the contrary))~~ unless a child's right to conditions of basic nurture, health, or safety is jeopardized. When the rights of basic nurture, physical and mental health, and safety of the child and the legal rights of the parents are in conflict, the rights and safety of the child should prevail.

Sec. 3. Section 31, chapter 291, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. as last amended by section 2, chapter 311, Laws of 1983 and RCW 13.34.030 are each amended to read as follows:

For purposes of this chapter:

(1) "Child" and "juvenile" means any individual under the age of eighteen years;

(2) "Dependent child" means any child:

(a) Who has been abandoned; that is, where the child's parent, guardian, or other custodian has evidenced either by statement or conduct, a settled intent to forego, for an extended period, all parental rights or all parental responsibilities despite an ability to do so;

(b) Who is abused or neglected as defined in chapter 26.44 RCW by a person legally responsible for the care of the child;

(c) Who has no parent, guardian, or custodian ~~((willing and))~~ capable of adequately caring for the child, such that the child is in circumstances which constitute a danger of substantial damage to the child's psychological or physical development; or

(d) Who is developmentally disabled, as defined in RCW 71.20.016 and whose parent, guardian, or legal custodian together with the department determines that services appropriate to the child's needs can not be provided in the home. However, (a), (b), and (c) of this subsection may still be applied if other reasons for removal of the child from the home exist.

Sec. 4. Section 34, chapter 291, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. as last amended by section 5, chapter 95, Laws of 1984 and by section 3, chapter 188, Laws of 1984 and RCW 13.34.060 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

(1) A child taken into custody pursuant to RCW 13.34.050 or 26.44.050 shall be immediately placed in shelter care. A child taken by a relative of the child in violation of RCW 9A.40.060 or 9A.40.070 shall be placed in shelter care only when permitted under RCW 13.34.055. "Shelter care" means temporary physical care in a facility licensed pursuant to RCW 74.15.030 or in a home not required to be licensed pursuant to that section. Whenever a child is taken into such custody pursuant to this section, the supervising agency may authorize evaluations of the child's physical or

emotional condition, routine medical and dental examination and care, and all necessary emergency care. In no case may a child who is taken into custody pursuant to RCW 13.34.055, 13.34.050, or 26.44.050 be detained in a secure detention facility. No child may be held longer than seventy-two hours, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, after such child is taken into custody unless a court order has been entered for continued shelter care. The child and his or her parent, guardian, or custodian shall be informed that they have a right to a shelter care hearing. The court shall hold a shelter care hearing if one is requested.

(2) The juvenile court counselor assigned to the matter shall make all reasonable efforts to advise the parents, guardian, or legal custodian of the time and place of any shelter care hearing, request that they be present, and inform them of their basic rights as provided in RCW 13.34.090.

(3) At the commencement of the shelter care hearing the court shall advise the parties of their basic rights as provided in RCW 13.34.090 and shall appoint counsel pursuant to RCW 13.34.090 if counsel has not been retained by the parent or guardian and if the parent or guardian is indigent, unless the court finds that the right to counsel has been expressly and voluntarily waived.

(4) The court shall examine the need for shelter care. All parties have the right to present testimony to the court regarding the need or lack of need for shelter care.

(5) The juvenile court probation counselor shall submit a recommendation to the court as to the further need for shelter care, except that such recommendation shall be submitted by the department of social and health services in cases where the petition alleging dependency has been filed by the department of social and health services, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

(6) The court shall release a child alleged to be dependent to the care, custody, and control of the child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian unless the court finds there is reasonable cause to believe that:

(a) Reasonable efforts have been made to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the child's home and to make it possible for the child to return home; and

(b)(i) The child has no parent, guardian, or legal custodian to provide supervision and care for such child; or

(ii) The release of such child would present a serious threat of substantial harm to such child; or

~~((c))~~ (iii) The parent, guardian, or custodian to whom the child could be released is alleged to have violated RCW 9A.40.060 or 9A.40.070.

If the court does not release the child to his or her parent, guardian, or legal custodian, the court shall order continued shelter care or order placement with another suitable person, and the court shall set forth its reasons for the order.

(7) An order releasing the child on any conditions specified in this section may at any time be amended, with notice and hearing thereon, so as to return the child to shelter care for failure of the parties to conform to the conditions originally imposed.

(8) A shelter care order issued pursuant to this section may be amended at any time with notice and hearing thereon. The shelter care decision of placement shall be modified only upon a showing of change in circumstances. No child may be detained for longer than thirty days without an order, signed by the judge, authorizing continued shelter care.

Sec. 5. Section 40, chapter 291, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. as amended by section 45, chapter 155, Laws of 1979 and RCW 13.34.120 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) To aid the court in its decision on disposition, a social study, consisting of a written evaluation of matters relevant to the disposition of the case, shall be made by the person or agency filing the petition. The study shall include all social records and may also include facts relating to the child's cultural heritage, and shall be made available to the court. The court shall consider the social file and social study at the disposition hearing in addition to evidence produced at the fact-finding hearing. At least ten working days before the disposition hearing, the department shall mail to the parent and his or her attorney a copy of the agency's social study and proposed service plan, which shall be in writing or in a form understandable to the parents or custodians. In addition, the department shall provide an opportunity for parents to review and comment on the plan at the community service office. If the parents disagree with the agency's plan or any part thereof, the parents shall submit to the court at least twenty-four hours before the hearing, in writing, or signed oral statement, an alternative plan to correct the problems which led to the finding of dependency. This section shall not interfere with the right of the parents or custodians to submit oral arguments regarding the disposition plan at the hearing.

(2) In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection (1) of this section, a predisposition study to the court in cases of dependency alleged pursuant to RCW 13.34.030(2) (b) or (c) shall contain the following information:

(a) A statement of the specific harm or harms to the child that intervention is designed to alleviate;

(b) A description of the specific programs, for both the parents and child, that are needed in order to prevent serious harm to the child; the reasons why such programs are likely to be useful; the availability of any proposed services; and the agency's overall plan for ensuring that the services will be delivered;

(c) If removal is recommended, a full description of the reasons why the child cannot be protected adequately in the home, including a description of any previous efforts to work with the parents and the child in the

home; the in-home treatment programs which have been considered and rejected; and the parents' attitude toward placement of the child;

(d) A statement of the likely harms the child will suffer as a result of removal. This section should include an exploration of the nature of the parent-child attachment and the meaning of separation and loss to both the parents and the child;

(e) A description of the steps that will be taken to minimize harm to the child that may result if separation occurs; and

(f) Behavior that will be expected before determination that supervision of the family or placement is no longer necessary.

Sec. 6. Section 46, chapter 291, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. as amended by section 47, chapter 155, Laws of 1979 and RCW 13.34.180 are each amended to read as follows:

A petition seeking termination of a parent and child relationship may be filed in juvenile court. Such petition shall conform to the requirements of RCW 13.34.040 (~~as now or hereafter amended~~) and shall allege:

(1) That the child has been found to be a dependent child under RCW 13.34.030(2); and

(2) That the court has entered a dispositional order pursuant to RCW 13.34.130; and

(3) That the child has been removed or will, at the time of the hearing, have been removed from the custody of the parent for a period of at least six months pursuant to a finding of dependency under RCW 13.34.030(2); and

(4) That the services ordered under RCW 13.34.130 have been offered or provided and all necessary services, reasonably available, capable of correcting the parental deficiencies within the foreseeable future have been offered or provided; and

(5) That there is little likelihood that conditions will be remedied so that the child can be returned to the parent in the near future; and

(6) That continuation of the parent and child relationship clearly diminishes the child's prospects for early integration into a stable and permanent home;

(7) In lieu of the allegations in subsections (1) through (6) of this section, the petition may allege that the child was found under such circumstances that the (~~identity and~~) whereabouts of the child's parent are unknown and no (~~parent has claimed~~) person has acknowledged paternity or maternity and requested custody of the child within two months after the child was found.

**Sec. 7. Section 47, chapter 291, Laws of 1977 ex. sess. as amended by section 48, chapter 155, Laws of 1979 and RCW 13.34.190 are each amended to read as follows:*

After hearings pursuant to RCW 13.34.110, the court may enter an order terminating all parental rights to a child if the court finds that:

(1) (a) *The allegations contained in the petition as provided in RCW 13.34.180 ((1) through (6)) (2), (3), or (4) are established by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence; or (b) ((RCW 13.34.180(3)) may be waived because the allegations under RCW 13.34.180 (1), (2), (4), (5), and (6) are established beyond a reasonable doubt; or (c)) the allegations under RCW 13.34.180((7) is) (5) are established beyond a reasonable doubt; and*

(2) *Such an order is in the best interests of the child.*

*Sec. 7 was vetoed, see message at end of chapter.

*Sec. 8. Section 1, chapter 13, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 1, chapter 97, Laws of 1984 and RCW 26.44.010 are each amended to read as follows:

*The Washington state legislature finds and declares: The bond between a child and his or her parent, custodian, or guardian is of paramount importance, and any intervention into the life of a child is also an intervention into the life of the parent, custodian, or guardian; however, instances of nonaccidental injury, neglect, death, sexual abuse and cruelty to children by their parents, custodians or guardians have occurred, and in the instance where a child is deprived of his or her right to conditions of minimal nurture, health, and safety, the state is justified in emergency intervention based upon verified information; and therefore the Washington state legislature hereby provides for the reporting of such cases to the appropriate public authorities. It is the intent of the legislature that, as a result of such reports, protective services shall be made available in an effort to prevent further abuses, and to safeguard the general welfare of such children(~~(:PROVIDED, That such)).~~ The protective services shall have as its paramount goal the safety of the child. When the rights of basic nurture, mental and physical health, and safety of the child and the rights of the parents are in conflict, the rights of the child shall prevail. Reports shall be maintained and disseminated with strictest regard for the privacy of the subjects of such reports and so as to safeguard against arbitrary, malicious or erroneous information or actions: **PROVIDED FURTHER**, That this chapter shall not be construed to authorize interference with child-raising practices, including reasonable parental discipline, which are not proved to be injurious to the child's health, welfare and safety.*

Adult dependent persons not able to provide for their own protection through the criminal justice system shall also be afforded the protection offered children through the reporting and investigation requirements mandated in this chapter.

*Sec. 8 was vetoed, see message at end of chapter.

Sec. 9. Section 2, chapter 13, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 2, chapter 97, Laws of 1984 and RCW 26.44.020 are each amended to read as follows:

For the purpose of and as used in this chapter:

(1) "Court" means the superior court of the state of Washington, juvenile department.

(2) "Law enforcement agency" means the police department, the prosecuting attorney, the state patrol, the director of public safety, or the office of the sheriff.

(3) "Practitioner of the healing arts" or "practitioner" means a person licensed by this state to practice podiatry, optometry, chiropractic, nursing, dentistry, osteopathy and surgery, or medicine and surgery or to provide other health services. The term "practitioner" shall include a duly accredited Christian Science practitioner: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That a person who is being furnished Christian Science treatment by a duly accredited Christian Science practitioner shall not be considered, for that reason alone, a neglected person for the purposes of this chapter.

(4) "Institution" means a private or public hospital or any other facility providing medical diagnosis, treatment or care.

(5) "Department" means the state department of social and health services.

(6) "Child" or "children" means any person under the age of eighteen years of age.

(7) "Professional school personnel" shall include, but not be limited to, teachers, counselors, administrators, child care facility personnel, and school nurses.

(8) "Social (~~worker~~) service counselor" shall mean anyone engaged in a professional capacity during the regular course of employment in encouraging or promoting the health, welfare, support or education of children, or providing social services to adults or families, including mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, and domestic violence programs, whether in an individual capacity, or as an employee or agent of any public or private organization or institution.

(9) "Psychologist" shall mean any person licensed to practice psychology under chapter 18.83 RCW, whether acting in an individual capacity or as an employee or agent of any public or private organization or institution.

(10) "Pharmacist" shall mean any registered pharmacist under the provisions of chapter 18.64 RCW, whether acting in an individual capacity or as an employee or agent of any public or private organization or institution.

(11) "Clergy" shall mean any regularly licensed or ordained minister, priest or rabbi of any church or religious denomination, whether acting in an individual capacity or as an employee or agent of any public or private organization or institution.

(12) "Child abuse or neglect" shall mean the injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child by any person under circumstances which indicate that the child's health, welfare, and safety is harmed thereby. An abused child is a child who has been subjected to child abuse or neglect as defined herein: PROVIDED, That this

subsection shall not be construed to authorize interference with child-raising practices, including reasonable parental discipline, which are not proved to be injurious to the child's health, welfare, and safety: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing in this section shall be used to prohibit the reasonable use of corporal punishment as a means of discipline. No parent or guardian shall be deemed abusive or neglectful solely by reason of the parent's or child's blindness, deafness, developmental disability, or other handicap.

(13) "Child protective services section" shall mean the child protective services section of the department.

(14) "Adult dependent persons not able to provide for their own protection through the criminal justice system" shall be defined as those persons over the age of eighteen years who have been found legally incompetent pursuant to chapter 11.88 RCW or found disabled to such a degree pursuant to said chapter, that such protection is indicated: PROVIDED, That no persons reporting injury, abuse, or neglect to an adult dependent person as defined herein shall suffer negative consequences if such a judicial determination of incompetency or disability has not taken place and the person reporting believes in good faith that the adult dependent person has been found legally incompetent pursuant to chapter 11.88 RCW.

(15) "Sexual exploitation" includes: (a) Allowing, permitting, or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution by any person; or (b) allowing, permitting, encouraging, or engaging in the obscene or pornographic photographing, filming, or depicting of a child for commercial purposes as those acts are defined by state law by any person.

(16) "Negligent treatment or maltreatment" means an act or omission which evidences a serious disregard of consequences of such magnitude as to constitute a clear and present danger to the child's health, welfare, and safety.

(17) "Child protective services" means those services provided by the department designed to protect children from child abuse and neglect and safeguard the general welfare of such children and shall include investigations of child abuse and neglect reports, including reports regarding child care centers and family child care homes, and the development, management, and provision of or referral to services to ameliorate conditions which endanger the welfare of children, the coordination of necessary programs and services relevant to the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect, and services to children to ensure that each child has a permanent home. In determining whether protective services should be provided, the department shall not decline to provide such services solely because of the child's unwillingness or developmental inability to describe the nature and severity of the abuse or neglect.

Sec. 10. Section 3, chapter 13, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 1, chapter 145, Laws of 1986 and RCW 26.44.030 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) When any practitioner, professional school personnel, registered or licensed nurse, social ~~((worker))~~ service counselor, psychologist, pharmacist, ~~((or))~~ licensed or certified child care providers or their employees, employee of the department, or juvenile probation officer has reasonable cause to believe that a child or adult dependent person has suffered abuse or neglect, he shall report such incident, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department as provided in RCW 26.44-.040. The report shall be made at the first opportunity, but in no case longer than forty-eight hours after there is reasonable cause to believe that the child or adult has suffered abuse or neglect.

(2) Any other person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child or adult dependent person has suffered abuse or neglect may report such incident to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department of social and health services as provided in RCW 26.44.040.

(3) The department, upon receiving a report of an incident of abuse or neglect pursuant to this chapter, involving a child or adult dependent person who has died or has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon him other than by accidental means or who has been subjected to sexual abuse, shall report such incident in writing to the proper law enforcement agency.

(4) Any law enforcement agency receiving a report of an incident of abuse or neglect pursuant to this chapter, involving a child or adult dependent person who has died or has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon him other than by accidental means, or who has been subjected to sexual abuse, shall report such incident in writing as provided in RCW 26-.44.040 to the proper county prosecutor or city attorney for appropriate action whenever the law enforcement agency's investigation reveals that a crime may have been committed. The law enforcement agency shall also notify the department of all reports received and the law enforcement agency's disposition of them.

(5) Any county prosecutor or city attorney receiving a report under subsection (4) of this section shall notify the victim, any persons the victim requests, and the local office of the department, of the decision to charge or decline to charge a crime, within five days of making the decision.

(6) The department may conduct ongoing case planning and consultation with those persons or agencies required to report under this section and with designated representatives of Washington Indian tribes if the client information exchanged is pertinent to cases currently receiving child protective services or department case services for the developmentally disabled. Upon request, the department shall conduct such planning and consultation with those persons required to report under this section, with consultants designated by the department, if the department determines it is in the best

interests of the child or developmentally disabled person. Information considered privileged by statute and not directly related to reports required by this section shall not be divulged without a valid written waiver of the privilege.

(7) Any case referred to the department by a physician licensed under chapter 18.57 or 18.71 RCW on the basis of an expert medical opinion that child abuse, neglect, or sexual assault has occurred and that the child's safety will be seriously endangered if returned home, the department shall file a dependency petition unless a second licensed physician of the parents' choice believes that such expert medical opinion is incorrect. If the parents fail to designate a second physician, the department may make the selection. If a physician finds that a child has suffered abuse or neglect but that such abuse or neglect does not constitute imminent danger to the child's health or safety, and the department agrees with the physician's assessment, the child may be left in the parents' home while the department proceeds with reasonable efforts to remedy parenting deficiencies.

(8) Persons or agencies exchanging information under subsection (6) of this section shall not further disseminate or release the information except as authorized by state or federal statute. Violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

(9) Upon receiving reports of abuse or neglect, the department or law enforcement agency may interview children. The interviews may be conducted on school premises, at day-care facilities, at the child's home, or at other suitable locations outside of the presence of parents. Parental notification of the interview shall occur at the earliest possible point in the investigation that will not jeopardize the safety or protection of the child or the course of the investigation. Prior to commencing the interview the department or law enforcement agency shall determine whether the child wishes a third party to be present for the interview and, if so, shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the child's wishes. Unless the child objects, the department or law enforcement agency shall make reasonable efforts to include a third party in any interview so long as the presence of the third party will not jeopardize the course of the investigation.

(10) Upon receiving a report of incidents, conditions, or circumstances of child abuse and neglect, the department shall have access to all relevant records of the child in the possession of mandated reporters and their employees.

(11) The department shall maintain investigation records and conduct timely and periodic reviews of all cases constituting abuse and neglect. The department shall maintain a log of screened-out nonabusive cases.

(12) The department of social and health services shall, within funds appropriated for this purpose, use a risk assessment tool when investigating child abuse and neglect referrals. The tool shall be used, on a pilot basis, in

three local office service areas. The department shall, within funds appropriated for this purpose, offer enhanced community-based services to persons who are determined not to require further state intervention.

The department shall report to the ways and means committees of the senate and house of representatives on the use of the tool by December 1, 1988. The report shall include recommendations on the continued use and possible expanded use of the tool.

Sec. 11. Section 8, chapter 217, Laws of 1975 1st ex. sess. and RCW 26.44.053 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) In any judicial proceeding in which it is alleged that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect, the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem for the child: PROVIDED, That the requirement of a guardian ad litem shall be deemed satisfied if the child is represented by counsel in the proceedings.

(2) At any time prior to or during a hearing in such a case, ~~((when the court finds upon clear, cogent and convincing evidence that an incident of child abuse or neglect has occurred;))~~ the court may, on its own motion, or the motion of the guardian ad litem, or other parties, order the examination by a physician, psychologist or psychiatrist, of any parent or child or other person having custody of the child at the time of the alleged child abuse or neglect, if the court finds such an examination is necessary to the proper determination of the case. The hearing may be continued pending the completion of such examination. The physician, psychologist or psychiatrist conducting such an examination may be required to testify ~~((in the dispositional hearing))~~ concerning the results of such examination and may be asked to give his opinion as to whether the protection of the child requires that he not be returned to the custody of his parents or other persons having custody of him at the time of the alleged child abuse or neglect. Persons so testifying shall be subject to cross-examination as are other witnesses. No ~~((testimony))~~ information given at any such examination of the parent or any other person having custody of the child may be used against such person in any subsequent criminal proceedings against such person or custodian concerning the abuse or neglect of the child.

(3) A parent or other person having legal custody of a child alleged to be a child subjected to abuse or neglect shall be a party to any proceeding that may as a practical matter impair or impede such person's interest in custody or control of his or her child.

Sec. 12. Section 6, chapter 35, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. as last amended by section 3, chapter 269, Laws of 1986 and RCW 26.44.070 are each amended to read as follows:

The department shall maintain a central registry of reported cases of child abuse or abuse of an adult dependent person and shall adopt such rules and regulations as necessary in carrying out the provisions of this section. Records in the central registry shall be considered confidential and

privileged and will not be available except upon court order to any person or agency except (1) law enforcement agencies as defined in this chapter in the course of an investigation of alleged abuse or neglect; (2) protective services workers or juvenile court personnel who are investigating reported incidents of abuse or neglect; (3) department of social and health services personnel who are investigating the character and/or suitability of an agency and other persons who are applicants for licensure, registration, or certification, or applicants for employment with such an agency or persons, or under contract to or employed by an agency or persons directly responsible for the care and treatment of children, expectant mothers, or adult dependent persons pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW; (4) department of social and health services personnel who are investigating the character, suitability, and competence of persons being considered for employment with the department in positions directly responsible for the supervision, care, or treatment of children or developmentally disabled persons pursuant to chapters 43.20A and 41.06 RCW; (5) department of social and health services personnel who are investigating the character or suitability of any persons with whom children may be placed under the interstate compact on the placement of children, chapter 26.34 RCW; (6) physicians who are treating the child or adult dependent person or family; (7) any child or adult dependent person named in the registry who is alleged to be abused or neglected, or his or her guardian ad litem and/or attorney; (8) a parent, guardian, or other person legally responsible for the welfare and safety of the child or adult dependent person named in the registry; (9) any person engaged in a bona fide research purpose, as determined by the department, according to rules and regulations, provided that information identifying the persons of the registry shall remain privileged; and (10) any individual whose name appears on the registry shall have access to his own records. Those persons or agencies exempted by this section from the confidentiality of the records of the registry shall not further disseminate or release such information so provided to them and shall respect the confidentiality of such information, and any violation of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor.

In accordance with procedures and rules developed by the department, the child protective services section may notify any board of licensing or school administration when a member, licensee, or employee has been reported to the central registry as an adjudicated or admitted perpetrator of child abuse or neglect. The information placed in the central registry or its replacement must be made available to licensing boards and/or school administrations upon request following notification as required by the child protective services section. Unless the victim of the child abuse or neglect, or the victim's parent, guardian, or other person legally responsible for the victim's welfare consents to the disclosure of the victim's name and address, such information shall not be contained in the information provided by the department.

Sec. 13. Section 3, chapter 172, Laws of 1967 as last amended by section 5, chapter 188, Laws of 1984 and RCW 74.15.030 are each amended to read as follows:

The secretary shall have the power and it shall be the secretary's duty:

(1) In consultation with the children's services advisory committee, and with the advice and assistance of persons representative of the various type agencies to be licensed, to designate categories of facilities for which separate or different requirements shall be developed as may be appropriate whether because of variations in the ages, sex and other characteristics of persons served, variations in the purposes and services offered or size or structure of the agencies to be licensed hereunder, or because of any other factor relevant thereto;

(2) In consultation with the children's services advisory committee, and with the advice and assistance of persons representative of the various type agencies to be licensed, to adopt and publish minimum requirements for licensing applicable to each of the various categories of agencies to be licensed.

The minimum requirements shall be limited to:

(a) The size and suitability of a facility and the plan of operation for carrying out the purpose for which an applicant seeks a license;

(b) The character, suitability and competence of an agency and other persons associated with an agency directly responsible for the care and treatment of children, expectant mothers or developmentally disabled persons. In consultation with law enforcement personnel, the secretary shall investigate the conviction record or pending charges of each agency and its staff seeking licensure or relicensure. Such investigation shall include an examination of the child abuse and neglect register established under chapter 26.44 RCW on all agencies seeking a license under this chapter. The secretary shall use the information solely for the purpose of determining eligibility for a license and for determining the character, suitability, and competence of those persons or agencies, excluding parents, not required to be licensed who are authorized to care for children, expectant mothers, and developmentally disabled persons, and shall safeguard the information in the same manner as the child abuse registry established in RCW 26.44.070. Criminal justice agencies shall provide the secretary such information as they may have and that the secretary may require for such purpose;

(c) The number of qualified persons required to render the type of care and treatment for which an agency seeks a license;

(d) The safety, cleanliness, and general adequacy of the premises to provide for the comfort, care and well-being of children, expectant mothers or developmentally disabled persons;

(e) The provision of necessary care, including food, clothing, supervision and discipline; physical, mental and social well-being; and educational, recreational and spiritual opportunities for those served;

(f) The financial ability of an agency to comply with minimum requirements established pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031; and

(g) The maintenance of records pertaining to the admission, progress, health and discharge of persons served((-);

(3) To investigate any person, including relatives by blood or marriage except for parents, for character, suitability, and competence in the care and treatment of children, expectant mothers, and developmentally disabled persons prior to authorizing that person to care for children, expectant mothers, and developmentally disabled persons((-);

(4) On reports of child abuse and neglect, to investigate agencies in accordance with chapter 26.44 RCW, including day care centers and family day care homes, to determine whether the abuse or neglect has occurred, and whether child protective services or referral to a law enforcement agency is appropriate;

(5) To issue, revoke, or deny licenses to agencies pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031. Licenses shall specify the category of care which an agency is authorized to render and the ages, sex and number of persons to be served;

~~((5))~~ (6) To prescribe the procedures and the form and contents of reports necessary for the administration of chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 and to require regular reports from each licensee;

~~((6))~~ (7) To inspect agencies periodically to determine whether or not there is compliance with chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 and the requirements adopted hereunder;

~~((7))~~ (8) To review requirements adopted hereunder at least every two years and to adopt appropriate changes after consultation with the children's services advisory committee; and

~~((8))~~ (9) To consult with public and private agencies in order to help them improve their methods and facilities for the care of children, expectant mothers and developmentally disabled persons.

Sec. 14. Section 6, chapter 172, Laws of 1967 as last amended by section 9, chapter 118, Laws of 1982 and RCW 74.15.060 are each amended to read as follows:

The secretary of social and health services shall have the power and it shall be his duty:

In consultation with the children's services advisory committee and with the advice and assistance of persons representative of the various type agencies to be licensed, to develop minimum requirements pertaining to each category of agency established pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031, necessary to promote the health of all persons residing therein.

The secretary or the city, county, or district health department designated by him shall have the power and the duty:

(1) To make or cause to be made such inspections and investigations of agencies, including investigation of alleged child abuse and neglect in accordance with chapter 26.44 RCW, as may be deemed necessary; and

(2) To issue to applicants for licenses hereunder who comply with the requirements adopted hereunder, a certificate of compliance, a copy of which shall be presented to the department before a license shall be issued, except that a provisional license may be issued as provided in RCW 74.15.120.

Passed the Senate April 20, 1987.

Passed the House April 15, 1987.

Approved by the Governor May 19, 1987, with the exception of certain items which were vetoed.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 19, 1987.

Note: Governor's explanation of partial veto is as follows:

"I am returning herewith, without my approval as to sections 7 and 8, Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5659, entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to child protective services."

This bill is the result of a lot of hard work by legislators and citizens to improve protective services for the children of our state. However, Section 7, which amends RCW 13.34.190, would allow the Department of Social and Health Services to terminate parental custody in any case having dependency status with the department. Department of Social and Health Services does not seek this greater authority. This is a technical error that the Legislature did not intend to make. If passed, this section would result in all dependency cases being held until this language could be changed. Therefore, I have vetoed section 7 of Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5659 to preserve current law.

Section 8 of Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5659 amends RCW 26.44.010. It articulates the paramount goal of child protective services as being the safety of the child. However, the impact of this language is receiving vastly different interpretations by attorneys, child advocates and legislators.

It is clear that in the past year, child protective service workers have become increasingly aware of the need to put the welfare of the child above all other concerns. I feel confident that no matter what language is put in this section, those workers are putting the needs of children first. The confusion surrounding this language compels me to recommend that in the interim the interested parties come together and agree on what the best standard is for guiding protective services in safeguarding the general welfare of children. For this reason, I have vetoed section 8 of Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5659.

With the exception of sections 7 and 8, Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5659 is approved."

CHAPTER 525

[Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5479]

EDUCATION—SCHOOLS FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY—TEACHING AS A PROFESSION—MASTERS DEGREE REQUIREMENT—STAFF DEVELOPMENT

AN ACT Relating to improving the educational system; amending RCW 28A.71.210; adding new sections to chapter 28A.04 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28A.70 RCW; adding new sections to Title 28A RCW; adding a new section to Title 28B RCW; creating new