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WASHINGTON STATE

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## 2017 Legislative Update #1 1/16/2017

Hi all:

As mentioned in the intro document, these updates will be provided weekly through session. If you'd like to sign up to receive these emails directly,

Below is a summary of some of the more pertinent proposed legislation as it relates to CASA work and dependent children. Many of the bill descriptions are taken from the policy page of the Partners for Our Children website (<http://www.partnersforourchildren.org>).

In addition to the bill below, you can also expect a CASA funding request bill to drop later this week. We'll definitely keep you posted on that one. Additionally, there's growing interest in creating a "Fair Deal for Foster Kids" initiative that will package a number of foster care/dependency related budget requests so that together there may be a better chance of them all getting funded.

### NEW BILLS

**HB1251: [Concerning the appointment of counsel for youth in dependency court proceedings.](#)**

Sponsored by [Frame](#), [Rodne](#), [Goodman](#), [Stokesbary](#), [Jinkins](#), [Haler](#), [Kagi](#), [Muri](#), [Reeves](#)

**Status:** HB 1251 was introduced on 1/16 and referred to the Judiciary. No hearing has been scheduled.

**SUMMARY:** HB 1251 requires the appointment of an attorney to any alleged dependent child prior to the initial shelter care hearing and would remain on the case through the duration of the case, including appeals. Attorneys would be paid for at state expense.

\*\*\*We'll probably be looking for CASAs to come and testify on this bill as soon as a hearing is scheduled. If you're interested, please let me ([ryan@wacasa.org](mailto:ryan@wacasa.org)) know!