



WASHINGTON STATE

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2017 Legislative Update #2 1/20/2017

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

HB 1365: [Requiring the use of trained meeting facilitators in certain planning meetings involving children, parents, caregivers, and others.](#)

Sponsors: [Ortiz-Self](#), [Pettigrew](#), [Hargrove](#), [Ryu](#), [Lovick](#), [Ormsby](#)

Status: HB 1365 was introduced on 1/18 and referred to Early Learning and Human Services committee. No hearing has been scheduled yet.

SUMMARY: HB 1365 aims to increase family engagement in the child welfare process through facilitators. The bill would require that facilitator's guide the decision-making process in all child welfare shared planning meetings, unless the department of social and health services finds good cause to proceed without a facilitator. Additionally, the bill outlines the responsibilities of the facilitator and defines shared planning meeting (Shared planning meeting means any meeting that includes families, youth, relatives, fictive kin, natural supports, and others who can assist in a plan that prioritizes child safety and meets the support and service needs of parents, children, and caregivers. This inclusive meeting model provides an opportunity for information to be shared, case plans to be developed, and decisions made that will support the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. The goal, when possible, of these meetings must also be to assist in reunifying families.)

HB1366: [AN ACT Relating to promoting child welfare family reunification](#)

Sponsored by [Ortiz-Self](#), [Hargrove](#), [Caldier](#),
[Tarleton](#), [Pettigrew](#), [Gregerson](#), [Kilduff](#), [Senn](#), [Ryu](#), [Appleton](#), [Goodman](#), [Lovick](#), [Ormsby](#), [Frame](#)

Status: HB 1366 was introduced on 1/18 and referred to the ELHS committee. No hearing has been scheduled yet.

SUMMARY: HB 1366 would define visitation as a remedial service; meaning that the department would be required to provide visitation if so ordered.

HB 1401: [Requiring the court to remove any person serving as a court-appointed special advocate or volunteer guardian ad litem if that person has made a materially false statement under oath.](#)

Sponsored by [Ortiz-Self](#), [Stonier](#), [Ryu](#), [Peterson](#), [Santos](#), [Jinkins](#), [Appleton](#), [Bergquist](#)

Status: HB 1401 was introduced on 1/19 and referred to the Judiciary committee. No hearing has been scheduled yet.

SUMMARY: The court shall remove any person from serving as a court appointed special advocate or volunteer guardian ad litem if the court is notified that the person has been removed from another county's registry pursuant to the disposition of a grievance or if the court is otherwise made aware that the individual was found by a court to have made a materially false statement that he or she knows to be false during an official proceeding under oath.

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ON BILLS

HB1251 / SB5363: [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. **A hearing has been scheduled for January 24th @ 10AM.**

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) know!