

# 2011 Child Support Schedule Workgroup Report

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*House Judiciary Committee*

David Stillman, Assistant Secretary  
Economic Services Administration  
December 2, 2011



# Federal Requirement:

**CFR 302.56 requires that:...**

- **States review and revise, if appropriate, their state child support guidelines once every four years to ensure that their application results in the determination of appropriate child support amounts.**
- **Deviations from the guidelines must be limited.**



## State requirement:

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- **RCW 26.19.025 requires the Division of Child Support to convene a workgroup every four years.**
- **The workgroup must report its findings and recommendations to the legislature by October 1, 2011, for legislative action, if necessary.**



# 2011 Child Support Workgroup

- Convened under RCW 26.19.025
- Legislative appointments:
  - Rep. Jim Moeller
  - Sen. Jim Kastama
  - Sen. Mike Carrell
- Governor appointments:
  - David Stillman, Chair, DCS Director
  - Gail Hammer, Gonzaga University School of Law.
  - Kathleen Schmidt, WSBA's Family Law Executive Committee.



## Membership (cont.)

- **Ken Levinson, Director of the Nooksack Tribe's Child Support Program**
- **The Honorable Gary Bashor, Cowlitz County, Superior Court Judges Association**
- **Janet Skreen, Office of the Administrator for the Courts**
- **Kevin Callaghan, Yakima County Deputy Prosecutor, WAPA**



## Membership (cont.)

- **Ed Pesik, Jr., ALJ, OAH**
- **Kristofer Amblad, Northwest Justice Project**
- **James Cox, noncustodial parent**
- **Tim Eastman, noncustodial parent**
- **Andrew McDirmid, noncustodial parent**
- **Kristie Dimak, custodial parent**
- **Angela Gerbracht, custodial parent**
- **Kathy Lynn, custodial parent**



# Public Meetings

- **Convened in January 2011.**
- **12 in-person meetings.**
- **Public forums held in Seattle and Spokane.**
- **Subcommittee meetings held by conference call.**
- **Public participation encouraged.**



# Report to the Legislature

The report was delivered to the Legislature on September 30, 2011.

DCS's review of child support orders is included in the report, consistent with 45 CFR 302.56.

The report, and previous reports are available at:

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/esa/dcs/finalreportofworkgrou p2011.pdf>





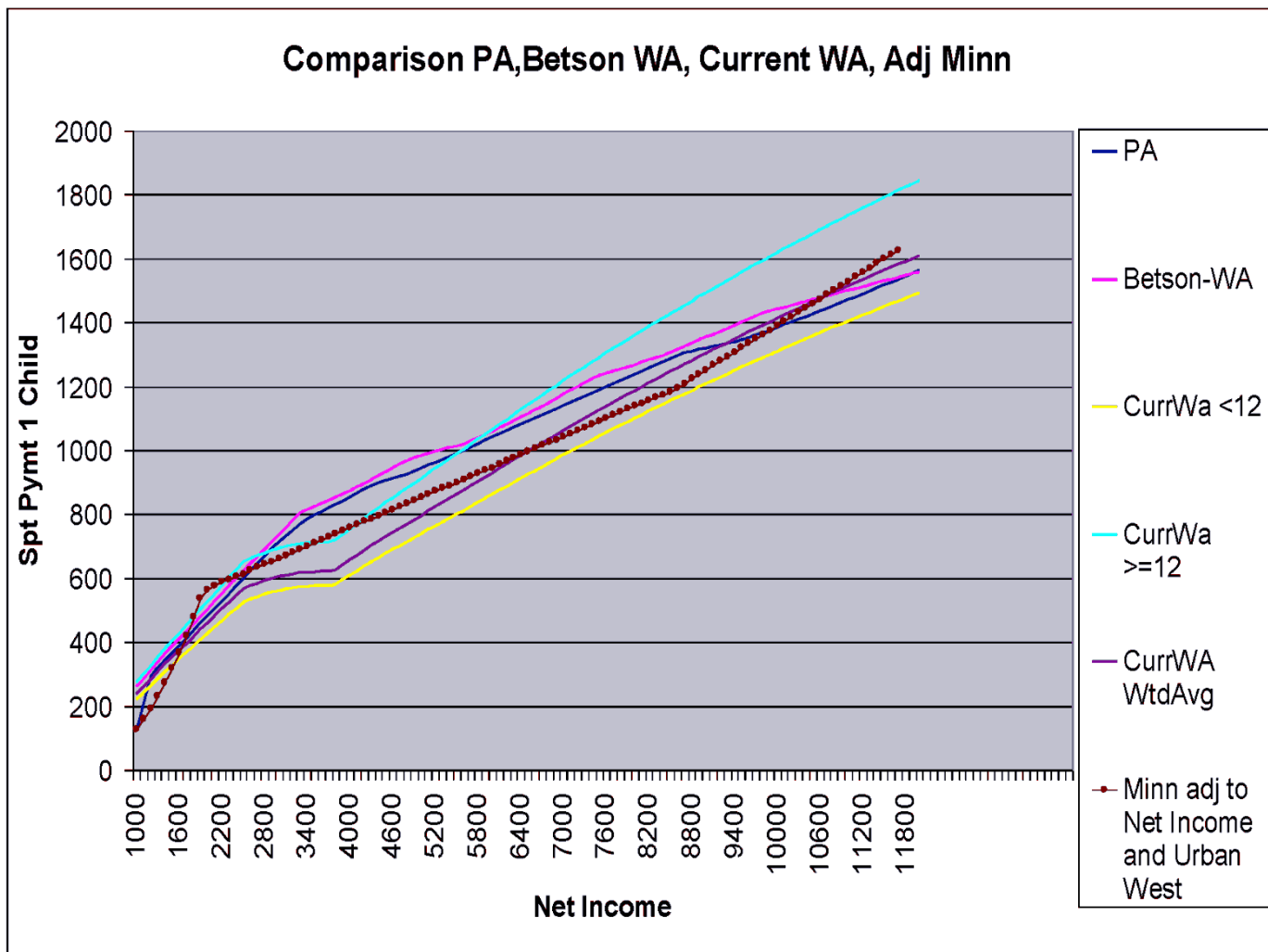
# The Economic Table - recommendation

## Adopt a New Economic Table:

- Base it on more current economic data.
- Dr. Betson's more recent economic data (from the CA report) should form the basis for WA's new economic table.
- Collapse the table to a one-child column.
- Use a combined monthly net income of \$12,000.  
(Note: a minority of members wanted it to go higher.)



# Comparison of Possible Methods



# Proposed New “Betson” Table

Draft: August 31, 2011

**Prototype of an Updated Washington Table - Pg.1**  
Based on Betson-Rothbarth Estimates from 2004-2008 CE  
(per child amount)

Monthly Combined Available Income						Monthly Combined Available Income					
	One Child	Two Children	Three Children	Four Children	Five Children		One Child	Two Children	Three Children	Four Children	Five Children
1000	220	170	141	118	104	3600	789	605	490	410	361
1100	243	187	155	130	114	3700	808	619	501	420	370
1200	265	204	169	141	124	3800	822	629	509	426	375
1300	287	221	183	153	135	3900	836	639	517	433	381
1400	309	238	197	165	145	4000	849	649	524	439	386
1500	331	255	211	177	155	4100	863	659	532	445	392
1600	353	272	225	188	166	4200	873	666	537	450	396
1700	375	289	239	200	176	4300	883	674	543	455	400
1800	397	306	252	211	186	4400	893	681	549	460	405
1900	418	322	266	223	196	4500	903	689	555	465	409
2000	440	339	279	234	206	4600	913	696	560	470	413
2100	462	355	292	245	215	4700	923	703	566	474	417
2200	484	372	305	256	225	4800	934	712	573	480	422
2300	506	389	318	267	235	4900	946	721	580	486	427
2400	527	405	332	278	244	5000	958	730	587	492	433
2500	549	422	345	289	254	5100	970	739	594	498	438
2600	571	439	358	300	264	5200	982	748	601	504	443
2700	593	455	371	311	274	5300	994	757	609	510	449
2800	615	472	384	322	283	5400	1006	766	616	516	454
2900	636	488	398	333	293	5500	1018	775	623	522	459
3000	658	505	411	344	303	5600	1030	784	630	528	465
3100	680	522	424	355	313	5700	1037	789	634	531	467
3200	702	538	437	366	322	5800	1043	793	638	534	470
3300	724	555	450	377	332	5900	1049	798	641	537	473
3400	745	572	463	388	342	6000	1056	802	645	540	475
3500	767	588	477	399	351	6100	1062	807	648	543	478



# “Betson” Table (cont.)

Draft: August 31, 2011

<b>Prototype of an Updated Washington Table - Pg.2</b> Based on Betson-Rothbarth Estimates from 2004-2008 CE (per child amount)														
Monthly Combined Available Income						Monthly Combined Available Income								
	One Child	Two Children	Three Children	Four Children	Five Children		One Child	Two Children	Three Children	Four Children	Five Children			
6200	1068	812	652	546	480	8800	1351	1021	815	683	601			
6300	1074	816	655	549	483	8900	1360	1027	820	687	604			
6400	1080	821	658	552	485	9000	1369	1034	825	691	608			
6500	1089	827	663	556	489	9100	1378	1040	830	695	612			
6600	1104	838	672	563	496	9200	1387	1048	836	701	617			
6700	1118	849	681	571	502	9300	1396	1055	843	706	621			
6800	1133	860	690	578	509	9400	1404	1063	850	712	626			
6900	1148	872	699	586	515	9500	1413	1070	856	717	631			
7000	1163	883	708	593	522	9600	1422	1078	863	723	636			
7100	1178	894	717	601	529	9700	1431	1085	869	728	641			
7200	1193	905	726	608	535	9800	1440	1093	876	734	646			
7300	1208	916	735	616	542	9900	1449	1100	882	739	650			
7400	1220	925	742	622	547	10000	1460	1108	888	744	655			
7500	1229	933	748	626	551	10100	1471	1115	893	748	659			
7600	1239	940	753	631	555	10200	1482	1123	899	753	663			
7700	1249	947	759	636	559	10300	1493	1130	904	757	666			
7800	1259	954	764	640	563	10400	1504	1138	909	762	670			
7900	1269	961	770	645	568	10500	1516	1145	915	766	674			
8000	1279	969	775	650	572	10600	1527	1153	920	771	678			
8100	1288	976	781	654	576	10700	1538	1160	925	775	682			
8200	1298	983	787	659	580	10800	1549	1168	930	779	686			
8300	1307	989	791	663	583	10900	1553	1171	933	782	688			
8400	1316	996	796	667	587	11000	1558	1175	936	784	690			
8500	1325	1002	801	671	590	11100	1563	1179	939	787	692			
8600	1333	1008	806	675	594	11200	1567	1182	942	789	695			
8700	1342	1015	810	679	597	11300	1572	1186	945	792	697			



# “Betson” Table (cont.)

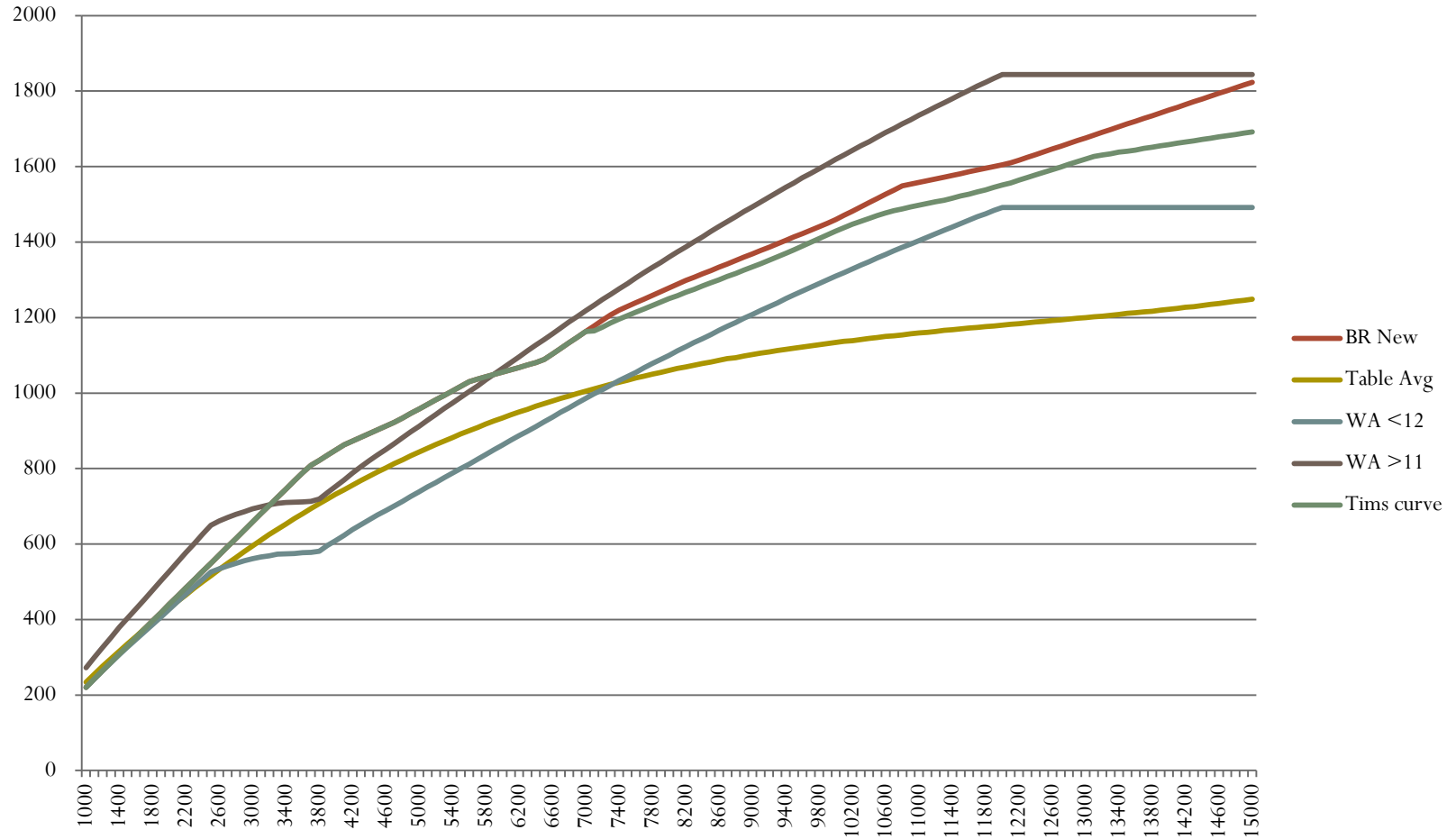
Draft: August 31, 2011

<b>Prototype of an Updated Washington Table - Pg.3</b> Based on Betson-Rothbarth Estimates from 2004-2008 CE (per child amount)					
Monthly Combined Available Income	One Child	Two Children	Three Children	Four Children	Five Children
11400	1577	1190	948	794	699
11500	1581	1193	951	797	701
11600	1586	1197	954	799	703
11700	1591	1200	957	802	706
11800	1595	1204	960	804	708
11900	1600	1208	963	807	710
12000	1605	1211	966	809	712
12100	1610	1215	969	812	714
12200	1617	1221	973	815	718
12300	1624	1226	978	819	721
12400	1632	1232	982	823	724
12500	1639	1237	986	826	727
12600	1647	1243	991	830	730
12700	1654	1248	995	833	733
12800	1661	1254	999	837	737
12900	1669	1259	1003	841	740
13000	1676	1264	1008	844	743
13100	1683	1270	1012	848	746
13200	1691	1275	1016	851	749
13300	1698	1281	1021	855	752
13400	1706	1286	1025	859	756
13500	1713	1292	1029	862	759
13600	1720	1297	1033	866	762
13700	1728	1303	1038	869	765
13800	1735	1308	1042	873	768
13900	1742	1314	1046	877	771

Monthly Combined Available Income	One Child	Two Children	Three Children	Four Children	Five Children
14000	1750	1319	1051	880	774
14100	1757	1325	1055	884	778
14200	1764	1330	1059	887	781
14300	1772	1336	1063	891	784
14400	1779	1341	1068	894	787
14500	1787	1347	1072	898	790
14600	1794	1352	1076	902	793
14700	1801	1358	1081	905	797
14800	1809	1363	1085	909	800
14900	1816	1369	1089	912	803
15000	1823	1374	1093	916	806



# Comparison of Economic Tables



# Proposed “New Betson Table”

- **Goes to \$15,000 combined monthly net income. (Recommendation is \$12,000 CMNI).**
- **Based on a review of recent economic data used by Dr. Betson to produce a report for CA, which other states are also using.**
- **Uses a single age category.**



# Adopt the Whole Family Formula

- **There should be a presumptive adjustment of support using the Whole Family Formula, rather than a deviation, when a parent has children not before the court.**
- **The court may not grant this adjustment if doing so would leave insufficient funds in the custodial parent's household.**





# Clarify the Self-Support Reserve

The statutory reference to the self-support reserve should be clarified that the self-support reserve is 125% of the federal poverty level for a one-person family.



# Residential Credit

- **Residential credit should be available in both superior court and the administrative forum, and should be adjusted when there are changes in the amount of time a child spends with a parent that varies from the residential time granted in the support order giving credit.**
- **The residential schedule credit should not be considered a deviation, and should not be granted if it leaves insufficient funds in the custodial parent's household.**
- **The workgroup was unable to reach consensus on the method or formula to be used to calculate the credit, or the process for adjusting a residential credit, once given.**



# Post-secondary Education

- **The statute regarding post-secondary educational support should be amended to provide more guidance on when to order post-secondary educational support, how to set the amounts, and how and when it may be suspended, reinstated and/or terminated.**
- **The workgroup could agree that there should be more guidance, but could not agree on specific recommendations.**



# Questions?

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**For more information, please contact:**

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