
SENATE BILL 6648

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senator Hargrove

Read first time 01/24/2002. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to the improved early coordination of services
2 between the department of social and health services and public safety
3 agencies when allegations of criminal mistreatment are made; creating
4 new sections; and providing an expiration date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that responses by
7 the department of social and health services and public safety agencies
8 have varied between jurisdictions when allegations of withholding of
9 the basic necessities of life are made. The legislature intends to
10 improve the capacity of the department of social and health services
11 and public safety agencies to respond to situations where the basic
12 necessities of life are withheld by allowing an earlier intervention in
13 such cases. The legislature finds that improved coordination between
14 the department of social and health services and public safety agencies
15 at an earlier point will lead to better treatment of children and
16 families and will reduce the likelihood of serious harm.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of social and health
18 services, in consultation with the attorney general and organizations

1 representing law enforcement agencies, shall prepare a plan for
2 improved coordination of services to families when a member of the
3 family is charged with criminal mistreatment under chapter 9A.42 RCW.
4 The plan shall include revisions in the department's identification of
5 the needs for services for the families following an arrest and filing
6 of criminal mistreatment charges, delivery of such services, ways of
7 enhancing cooperation with law enforcement agencies during and
8 following the investigation and trial on such charges, improved
9 identification of those incidents which may precede such charges and
10 are indicators of a need for offering of services and possible
11 improvements in the methods of response to such incidents, suggestions
12 for ongoing efforts in reducing the number of criminal mistreatment
13 charges through improved identification of incidents and trends that
14 are markers of potentially serious family stress, and a review of the
15 adequacy of current sentencing for violations of the criminal
16 mistreatment statutes.

17 (2) The department of social and health services shall regularly
18 consult with the legislature in the preparation of the plan. The plan
19 shall be submitted to the governor and the legislature not later than
20 December 1, 2002.

21 (3) This section expires December 31, 2002.

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