

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1651

*As Reported By House Committee on:
Local Government*

Title: An act relating to public hospital districts.

Brief Description: Providing for public hospital district chaplains.

Sponsor(s): Representatives Franklin, Edmondson, Haugen, Ferguson, Valle and Wood.

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
Local Government, March 1, 1991, DPS.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Majority Report: *That Substitute House Bill No. 1651 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.*
Signed by 14 members: Representatives Haugen, Chair; Cooper, Vice Chair; Ferguson, Ranking Minority Member; Mitchell, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Bray; Edmondson; Franklin; Horn; Nealey; Nelson; Rayburn; Roland; Wynne; and Zellinsky.

Staff: Steve Lundin (786-7127).

Background: Public hospital districts are authorized to provide a variety of health related facilities and services.

Summary of Substitute Bill: Public hospital districts are authorized to employ chaplains for their hospitals, health care facilities, and hospice programs.

Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill: A one sentence, new section authorizes public hospital districts to hire chaplains, rather than adding two words to a six page long section of law.

A section is added providing an effective date of January 1, 1991, if a constitutional amendment is approved authorizing hospital districts to employ chaplains.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date of Substitute Bill: The act takes effect on January 1, 1992 if a constitutional amendment is approved at the November 1991, general election.

Testimony For: The auditor indicates that the constitution precludes hospital districts from employing chaplains. Chaplains can play an essential role in both the healing process and dying.

Testimony Against: None.

Witnesses: (testified in support): Greg Vigdor, Washington State Hospital Association; and Jerry Sheehan, American Civil Liberties Union (if amendment adopted).