

SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 5548

AS PASSED SENATE, MARCH 13, 1991

Brief Description: Changing the limitations on adult family home providers.

SPONSORS: Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators L. Smith and West).

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5548 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators West, Chairman; L. Smith, Vice Chairman; Amondson, Johnson, L. Kreidler, Niemi, and Wojahn.

Staff: Scott Plack (786-7409)

Hearing Dates: February 27, 1991; March 5, 1991

BACKGROUND:

The state's adult family home licensure law was enacted in 1989 and requires that adult family homes be licensed by the state. The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is the administrative agency responsible for operation of the licensure program. An adult family home is defined as a regular family abode of a person or persons who provide personal care, room and board to more than one, but not more than six adults, not related by blood or marriage to the person or persons providing the service.

Currently, an adult family home provider may be licensed to operate only one home. This limitation was enacted to insure that homes maintain a homelike atmosphere by having the provider living on site. The statutes do provide that DSHS may issue multiple licenses to a single provider for "good cause" as defined in rule. The intent was to allow for the continued operation of adult family homes in existence prior to 1989. These homes provide specialized care to select populations such as AIDS patients, traumatic brain injury patients and the developmentally disabled.

DSHS has generally interpreted the "good cause" proviso in a broad manner and has liberally issued multiple licenses to applicants. This appears to exceed the original legislative intent.

SUMMARY:

The existing statutory provisions allowing the Department of Social and Health Services to issue multiple licenses to providers for good cause is deleted. The department may issue

multiple licenses only to providers who deliver services to AIDS patients, the developmentally disabled, traumatic brain injured adults, the chronically mentally ill and hospice patients. No more than three licenses may be issued to a single provider. A grandfather clause is inserted for homes licensed prior to the effective date of the act.

Appropriation: none

Revenue: none

Fiscal Note: none requested

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

TESTIMONY FOR:

The bill limits multiple licensure of adult family only to homes providing care to special populations. The limitations help assure that adult family homes maintain their homelike atmosphere.

TESTIMONY AGAINST: None

TESTIFIED: PRO: Ivy Grantias, Jeff Larsen, Adult Licensed Family Homes of WA