

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1408

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As Reported By House Committee On:  
Human Services

**Title:** An act relating to teen pregnancy prevention.

**Brief Description:** Providing a comprehensive program for teen pregnancy prevention.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Sommers, Leonard, Cooke, Thibaudeau, Brough, Riley, Wolfe, Thomas, Karahalios, Ballasiotes, Forner, Long, Schmidt, Flemming, Silver, Eide, Wood, Shin, Linville, R. Meyers, J. Kohl, Ogden, Valle, Ludwig, Bray, Basich, Wineberry, Jones, Roland, Mielke, Wang, Heavey, Pruitt, Brown, Dellwo, Scott, Rayburn, King, Cothorn, Kessler, G. Cole, Rust, Springer, Kremen, Johanson, L. Johnson, Locke, Sheldon, Morris, H. Myers, Jacobsen and Anderson.

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Human Services, February 10, 1993, DPS.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 10 members: Representatives Leonard, Chair; Riley, Vice Chair; Cooke, Ranking Minority Member; Talcott, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Brown; Karahalios; Lisk; Patterson; Thibaudeau; and Wolfe.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 1 member: Representative Padden.

**Staff:** David Knutson (786-7146).

**Background:** Over 15,000 teenage girls become pregnant each year in Washington state. Adolescent pregnancies can cause young mothers to drop out of school, reduce their ability to earn a living wage, increase their likelihood of becoming dependent on public assistance, and increase the likelihood that their child will grow up in poverty. There are currently limited programs and services designed to reduce teenage pregnancies in Washington.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** The Department of Health will fund teen pregnancy prevention projects. The projects will be evaluated by the reduction of the pregnancy and birth rates among teens in the community served. The applications for funding will include components which address religious, cultural, and socioeconomic differences in the community to be served, and the inclusion of sexual abstinence as an acceptable method of pregnancy prevention. A teen pregnancy prevention media campaign will be conducted in conjunction with local media outlets and interested organizations and corporations. Appropriations will be made to the departments of Health and Social and Health Services to fund: (1) teen pregnancy prevention projects; (2) the media campaign; (3) increased family planning outreach, education, and services; and (4) extended family planning services to one year post partum for women eligible for medical care through the Department of Social and Health services.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The legislative findings related to the number of teen pregnancies is clarified. The evaluation of teen pregnancy prevention projects will include an evaluation of the teen pregnancy rate, as well as the teen birth rate. Applications for funding must include components on religious sensitivity and sexual abstinence as a method of teen pregnancy prevention. The unspecified appropriation to the Department of Social and Health Services is modified to provide extended family planning benefits for all women who qualify for medical care from the department.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested.

**Effective Date of Substitute Bill:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** The pregnancy rate for teen girls is too high. Programs which reduce the pregnancy rate should be expanded. The availability of family planning services should be increased.

**Testimony Against:** Pregnancy prevention programs may use abortion as a way to reduce the birth rate among teenagers. Pregnancy prevention programs should not discriminate against birth control methods accepted by religious organizations.

**Witnesses:** Peggy Johnson, Carline Lundmark, Citizens (con); Ken Bertrand, Group Health (pro); Theresa Conner, Planned Parenthood of Washington (pro); Laurie Lippold, Children's Home Society (pro); and Susan Patrick, Office of Superintendent of Instruction (pro).