

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 2026

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As Reported By House Committee On:  
Commerce & Labor

**Title:** An act relating to notice about fetal alcohol syndrome.

**Brief Description:** Requiring notice about fetal alcohol syndrome.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Karahalios, Wood, Leonard and Kessler.

**Brief History:**

Reported by House Committee on:  
Commerce & Labor, March 3, 1993, DPS.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Heavey, Chair; G. Cole, Vice Chair; Lisk, Ranking Minority Member; Chandler, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Conway; Horn; King; Springer; and Veloria.

**Staff:** Jim Kelley (786-7166).

**Background:** Fetal alcohol syndrome is the third leading cause of mental retardation in the United States. Approximately 145 babies are born in Washington each year with fetal alcohol syndrome.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** The Liquor Control Board is required to post in a conspicuous place within each state liquor store a notice warning women that drinking alcohol during pregnancy can cause birth defects, including fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The required notice need not include a precise quotation in one-inch letters. Instead, a notice is required warning women that drinking alcohol during pregnancy can cause birth defects, including fetal alcohol syndrome and fetal alcohol effects.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested March 1, 1993.

**Appropriation:** \$3,500 or as much thereof as may be necessary, from the state general fund to fund the costs of the program.

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

**Testimony For:** Fetal alcohol syndrome is a very serious problem. This is nothing more than a good first step toward addressing the problem. The Liquor Control Board can administer the bill as long as the money is provided.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Witnesses:** Representative Karaholios, Prime Sponsor (in favor); Ken Stark, Department of Social and Health Services (in favor); and Carter Mitchell, Liquor Control Board (neutral).