

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1432

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### As Reported By House Committee On:

Children & Family Services

**Title:** An act relating to modification of the adoption support reconsideration program.

**Brief Description:** Modifying the adoption support reconsideration program.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Cooke, Tokuda, Kastama and Dickerson; by request of Department of Social and Health Services.

### Brief History:

#### Committee Activity:

Children & Family Services: 2/6/97, 2/7/97 [DPS].

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## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Cooke, Chairman; Boldt, Vice Chairman; Bush, Vice Chairman; Tokuda, Ranking Minority Member; Kastama, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Ballasiotes; Carrell; Dickerson; Gombosky; McDonald and Wolfe.

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

**Background:** The Department of Social and Health Services provides post-adoption support through the adoption reconsideration program to individuals who adopt children. The program provides medical and counseling services for adopted children who lived in foster care and had a physical or mental handicap at the time of their adoption.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** The adoption reconsideration program will also cover adopted children who were at high risk of future physical or mental handicap or emotional disturbance as a result of prior exposure. Children in pre-adoption placements are also eligible for the adoption reconsideration program.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** Children in pre-adoptive placements are also eligible for the adoption reconsideration program.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available. New fiscal note requested on February 7, 1997.

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

**Testimony For:** Some disabling conditions do not manifest themselves for several years after adoptions are finalized. Adoptive parents who care for disabled children should also receive assistance under the adoption reconsideration program.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Jennifer Strus, Department of Social and Health Services (pro); Vicky McKinney, parent (pro); Jocie DeVries, parent (pro); Rae Lea Newman, parent (pro); and Gloria Fawcett, parent (pro).