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## Children & Family Services Committee

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### BILL ANALYSIS HB 2606

**Title:** An act relating to foster parents.

**Brief Description:** Prohibiting certain persons with criminal backgrounds from becoming foster parents.

**Sponsors:** Representatives O'Brien, Radcliff, Ballasiotes, Benson, Lambert, Cooke, Keiser, Lantz, Hatfield, Delvin, DeBolt, D. Sommers, Sheahan, Mulliken, Hankins, Fisher, Backlund, Mitchell, B. Thomas, Thompson, McCune and Kessler.

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**Meeting Date:** January 29, 1998.

**Bill Analysis Prepared by:** David Knutson (786-7146)

**Background:** The Department of Social and Health Services is required to determine the character, suitability, and competence of individuals applying to become foster parents. The Department does this through a background check with the Washington State Patrol for a conviction record or pending charges. It also reviews disciplinary board actions and dependency record information. The specific convictions covered by the State Parol background check include: aggravated murder, first or second degree murder, first, second, or third degree assault; first, second, or third degree assault of a child, first, second, or third degree rape; first, second, or third degree rape of a child; first or second degree robbery; first degree arson; first degree burglary; first or second degree manslaughter; first or second degree extortion; indecent liberties; incest; vehicular homicide; first degree promoting prostitution; communication with a minor; unlawful imprisonment; simple assault; sexual exploitation of minors; first or second degree criminal mistreatment; child abuse or neglect; first or second degree custodial interference; malicious harassment; first, second, or third degree child molestation; first or second degree sexual misconduct with a minor; first or second degree rape of a child; patronizing a juvenile prostitute; child abandonment; promoting pornography; selling or distributing erotic material to a minor; custodial assault; violation of a child abuse restraining order; child buying or selling; prostitution; felony indecent exposure; criminal abandonment; first, second, or third degree extortion; first, second, or third degree theft; first, second, or third degree robbery; or forgery.

**Summary of Bill:** A person is ineligible to become a foster parent if they have been convicted of a felony within the past ten years or five or more misdemeanors within the three years prior to applying for a foster care license. A person is permanently ineligible from receiving a foster care license if they are convicted of a sex offense, an offense involving a controlled substance, or an offense involving violent behavior toward a child or vulnerable adult.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** None requested.

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

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