

# **HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS**

## **SB 5008**

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

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

**Sponsors:** *Senators Long, Hargrove, Franklin, Zarelli and Winsley; by request of Department of Social and Health Services.*

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### **HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES**

**Meeting Date:** *March 27, 1997.*

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

**Background:** *The Department of Social and Health Services operates an adoption reconsideration program for adoptive parents who need assistance with expenses relating to medical or psychological problems of their adopted child.*

*A family may seek assistance in the payment of physician or provider services for a child who meets specified criteria. To qualify for the assistance, the adopted child must: (1) have been in state-funded foster care prior to the adoption; (2) have a physical, mental or emotional condition which existed and was documented prior to the adoption; and (3) reside in Washington state with an adoptive parent who cannot afford the expenses related to the child's special needs.*

*The medical needs of the child are reviewed and approved by the department's Office of Personal Health Services. The department may pay up to \$20,000 per child for medical services related to the child's special needs.*

**Summary of Bill:** *The eligibility criteria for the adoption reconsideration program is expanded, to allow for payment of expenses for children who are at high risk of physical, mental or emotional problems as a result of conditions exposed to prior to the adoption. The needs of the child no longer require review and approval by the Office of Personal Health Services.*

**Appropriation:** *None.*

**Fiscal Note:** *Not requested.*

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