

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1860

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Human Services & Corrections, April 3, 1997

**Title:** An act relating to adoption.

**Brief Description:** Requiring full disclosure of medical and psychological history to prospective adopting parents.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Cooke, Dickerson, Boldt, McDonald, Regala, Costa, Mason, Anderson, Kessler and Ogden).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Human Services & Corrections: 3/25/97, 4/3/97 [DPA].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Long, Chair; Zarelli, Vice Chair; Franklin, Hargrove, Kohl, Schow and Stevens.

**Staff:** Richard Rodger (786-7461)

**Background:** Individuals, agencies, and organizations that place children for adoption are required to give prospective adoptive parents a complete medical report covering the mental, physical, and sensory handicaps of the child. Some adoptive parents are not provided critical information needed to make an informed decision before receiving a child for adoption.

**Summary of Amended Bill:** Individuals, agencies, and organizations that place children for adoption must provide prospective adopting parents complete medical information on the child's condition. A person is considered a prospective adopting parent no later than when the birth parents' rights are terminated and preplacement reports have been approved. Every person who provides information must sign a sworn statement acknowledging they have provided all known and available information.—

**Amended Bill Compared to Substitute Bill:** Information is not required to be provided at the time of physical placement. The definition of prospective adopting parent— is modified. A requirement of a sworn statement is added in the amendment. The emergency clause is removed.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

**Testimony For:** Prospective adopting parents need all available medical information on a child before the child is placed in the home.

**Testimony Against:** Requiring information to be provided prior to physical placement—will cause problems. The children are sometimes placed with foster parents who later decide to adopt the children. The definition of prospective adopting parent— in the House version would allow a sex offender to obtain information about children who may be placed for adoption.

**Testified:** Rep. Cooke, prime sponsor; Vicky McKinney, Jocie DeVries, Ann Waller, parents (pro); Jennifer Strus.