

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESSB 5491

C 280 L 97

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Revising provisions for termination of parent and child relationship.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Stevens, Swecker, Strannigan, Schow and Hochstatter).

Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections

House Committee on Children & Family Services

Background: A "dependent child" means any child who has been abandoned, who is abused or neglected by a person legally responsible for the child's care, or who has a developmental disability and whose care cannot be provided in the home. At a fact-finding hearing held 75 days after filing a dependency petition, the court may continue the removal of a child from the home. This decision is made based upon a preponderance of the evidence.

Summary: At the 75 day fact-finding hearing, the court is required to use the standard of clear and convincing evidence to continue the placement of a child out of his or her home on the basis that a manifest danger exists to the child.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	47	0	
House	98	0	(House amended)
Senate			(Senate refused to concur)

Conference Committee

House	97	0
Senate	41	0

Effective: July 27, 1997