

SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 6409

As Passed Senate, February 12, 1998

Title: An act relating to care for children with developmental disabilities provided by the department of social and health services in the division of developmental disabilities.

Brief Description: Redistributing responsibilities for care for children with developmental disabilities provided by the department of social and health services in the division of developmental disabilities.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Hargrove and Long; by request of Department of Social and Health Services).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Human Services & Corrections: 1/29/98, 2/5/98 [DPS].
Passed Senate, 2/12/98, 47-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6409 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

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

Staff: Joan K. Mell (786-7447)

Background: In the 1997 legislative session, a bill (E2SSB 5710) passed that contained a provision requiring all services to developmentally disabled children to be consolidated into the Division of Developmental Disabilities. The consolidation concept was based upon a management report on the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) suggesting cases could be more efficiently handled within the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

This provision was vetoed by the Governor. The Governor's veto letter in conjunction with the veto directed DSHS to begin planning for the transfer and requested the Legislature grant DSHS necessary budget transfer authority this session to effect the transfer.

Summary of Bill: All cases of preventive home-based and out-of-home care provided to children with developmental disabilities are consolidated into the Division of Developmental Disabilities of DSHS, except cases where services are necessitated by issues of abuse and neglect, and cases where a child's permanency plan recommends adoption. Children's Administration continues to provide services to abused or neglected developmentally disabled children.

This consolidation and transfer occurs no later than July 1, 1998, and the levels and types of services presently available should not be affected.

Out-of-home care and preventive services are defined and added to the type of services offered. Out-of-home services– means essentially care by someone other than the parent. Preventive services– means essentially services provided in home to prevent the need for taking the child out of the home.

Collection action provisions are eliminated as they relate to parents of children with developmental disabilities.

The interdepartmental transfer must be accomplished within appropriated funds.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Testimony For: The Governor has requested a shift of services to developmentally disabled children into the Division of Developmental Disabilities of the Department of Social and Health Services from Children’s Administration. The transfer would impact approximately 300 children.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Janet Adams, DD Community Advocacy Coalition (pro); Donna Patrick, Developmental Disabilities Council (pro); Tim Brown, DSHS (pro).