

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1372

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**As Passed House:**  
February 24, 1999

**Title:** An act relating to birth defects surveillance.

**Brief Description:** Repealing the requirement to maintain a registry for handicapped children.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Schual-Berke, Esser, Boldt and Keiser; by request of Department of Health.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Health Care: 2/5/99, 2/9/99 [DP].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 2/24/99, 98-0.

Brief Summary of Bill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Repeals obsolete and redundant language regarding birth defect data collection, which will improve collection process.</li></ul>

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 12 members: Representatives Cody, Democratic Co-Chair; Parlette, Republican Co-Chair; Pflug, Republican Vice Chair; Schual-Berke, Democratic Vice Chair; Alexander; Boldt; Campbell; Conway; Edmonds; Edwards; Mulliken and Ruderman.

**Staff:** Bill Hagens (786-7131).

**Background:**

In Washington state, birth defects occur in about 2.6 percent of live births. These conditions account for 20 to 30 percent of all infant deaths, and numerous cases of disability. While advances in science have contributed to the prevention of birth

defects and its related disabilities, the Department of Health (DOH) continues to need accurate data to plan and provide services for these children.

Birth defects currently are reported to the DOH under the Registry for Handicapped Children statutes which were first enacted in 1959. However, the state's "notifiable conditions" requirement, as expressed in rule, has changed substantially over the years, rendering current law redundant.

Presently, the following "notifiable conditions" are reported:

Anencephaly	Spina bifida	Cleft lip with/without cleft palate
Cleft palate	Limb reduction defects	hypospadias (2nd and 3rd degree)
Gastroschisis	Omphalocele	
Cerebral palsy	Fetal alcohol syndrome	Down syndrome

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**Summary of Bill:**

The bill repeals redundant statutes relying upon existing rules for authority to collect birth defect data.

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**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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

**Testimony For:** The bill removes unnecessary statutory language that improves the efficiency of birth defect data collection.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Dr. Maxine Hayes, Department of Health.