HOUSE BILL REPORT
HB 1620

As Reported By House Committee On:
Health Care

Title: An act relating to protection of vulnerable adults.

Brief Description: Protecting vulnerable adults.

Sponsors: Representatives Conway, Parlette, Cody, Miloscia, Poulsen, Hatfield and Keiser; by request of Department of Social and Health Services.

Brief History:
Committee Activity:
Health Care: 2/11/99, 3/1/99 [DPS].

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

· Consolidates three statutes that require reporting and investigation of abuse, abandonment, financial exploitation and neglect.

· Definitions of abuse, abandonment, financial exploitation and neglect are made uniform and reporting requirements are clarified and streamlined.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 10 members: Representatives Cody, Democratic Co-Chair; Parlette, Republican Co-Chair; Pflug, Republican Vice Chair; Alexander; Campbell; Conway; Edmonds; Edwards; Mulliken and Ruderman.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 1 member: Representative Boldt.

Staff: Antonio Sanchez (786-7383).

Background:

Elder abuse is widespread in the United States. It is a national problem with a frequency and rate approximate to that of child abuse. Based on two national studies

on elder abuse, 48 percent of the incidents investigated are substantiated. However, only one in five incidents of abuse or neglect are ever reported and substantiated by Adult Protective Services. In general, there appears to be a higher rate of female abuse victims. The National Elder Abuse Incident Study found that almost 90 percent of the elder abuse and neglect incidents are with a known perpetrator, who most often is a family member. Two-thirds of the perpetrators are adult children or spouses. Rates of reported abuse to the state's Adult Protective Services Program have increased approximately 60 percent in the last three years.

Under current law vulnerable adults include: