

HOUSE BILL REPORT

ESSB 6218

As Reported By House Committee On:
Children & Family Services

Title: An act relating to technical and clarifying amendments to the family reconciliation act.

Brief Description: Making technical and clarifying amendments to the family reconciliation act.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Hargrove, Long and Costa).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Children & Family Services: 2/23/00, 2/24/00 [DPA].

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill
(As Amended by House Committee)

- Makes technical and clarifying changes to the underlying statutes.
- Codifies an existing uncodified intent section and excludes HOPE centers explicitly from the list of out-of-home placement options.
- Requires a report on the utilization of multidisciplinary teams, including recommendations on the creation and usefulness of the teams.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Majority Report: Do pass as amended. Signed by 10 members: Representatives D. Sommers, Republican Co-Chair; Tokuda, Democratic Co-Chair; Boldt, Republican Vice Chair; Kagi, Democratic Vice Chair; Campbell; Carrell; Dickerson; Eickmeyer; Kastama and Pflug.

Staff: Deborah Frazier (786-7152).

Background:

Since the Family Reconciliation Act was enacted, revisions have been made several times. Often, the revisions did not reference each other or other affected statutes.

Summary of Amended Bill:

The bill makes primarily technical and clarifying changes to the underlying statutes. In addition, the following changes are made:

- excludes HOPE centers explicitly from the list of out-of-home placement options;
- codifies an existing uncodified intent section which states that the act recognizes resource limitations on counties and that DSHS' responsibilities are contingent upon available funds; and,
- requires a report on the utilization of multidisciplinary teams, including recommendations on the creation and usefulness of the teams.

Amended Bill Compared to Engrossed Substitute Bill: The Engrossed Substitute Bill deleted references to crimes for which an adult can be prosecuted if they involve a child in the commission of the crimes. The amended bill reinstates current statutory language.

The Engrossed Bill repealed a section requiring that certain parental preferences be considered in making foster care placement. The amended bill reinstates current statutory language.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

Testimony For: These statutes have been changed several times over the years. The bill clarifies language and make it more readable.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: (In support) Senator Hargrove, prime sponsor; and Jake Romo, Department of Social and Health Services.