

6141-S2

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Fairley, Fraser, Costa, Kline and Kohl-Welles)

Brief Description: Requiring procedures to assist temporary assistance for needy families applicants who are domestic violence victims.

SB 6141-S2 - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 2ND SUBSTITUTE)

Declares an intent that the caseworkers, social workers, case managers, those performing client assessments, and job service specialists who come into direct contact with applicants or recipients of temporary assistance for needy families will be trained to identify and assist domestic violence victims.

Directs the department to develop screening procedures for identifying victims of domestic violence and monitor compliance with such procedures by its employees, contractors, and subcontractors. Such procedures shall include universal notification to all applicants and recipients of temporary assistance for needy families and state family assistance of the following: (1) Availability of supportive services;

(2) options for exemption or deferral of program requirements that make it more difficult for applicants or recipients to escape from domestic violence or unfairly penalize them for being victims of domestic violence;

(3) procedures for obtaining supportive services or applying for exemptions or deferrals; and

(4) procedures for voluntary and confidential disclosure of eligibility by the client for referrals to supportive services and deferral of program requirements.

Directs the department of social and health services and the employment security department to provide or contract to provide specialized training in culturally competent identification and appropriate assistance of domestic violence victims. Training shall include, at a minimum, the need for safety and confidentiality, the identification of patterns and cycles of abuse, and awareness of local and regional resources for legal assistance, counseling, and safe house organizations.