

6382

Sponsor(s): Senators Thibaudeau, McCaslin, Long, Costa, Winsley, Rasmussen, Kohl-Welles and McAuliffe; by request of Attorney General

Brief Description: Protecting dependent persons.

SB 6382 - DIGEST

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Finds that the number of vulnerable adults is growing because of demographics and longer life expectancies. Crimes against vulnerable adults, and neglect, exploitation, abuse, and sexual abuse of vulnerable adults are increasing. The state has a compelling interest in making it possible for the courts to adequately and fairly conduct cases involving vulnerable adult victims.

Declares an intent that this act make admissible as evidence the reliable hearsay of vulnerable adults beyond what is currently admissible, while respecting the constitutional rights of other parties.

Recognizes that the courts have implemented the child hearsay statute, RCW 9A.44.120, to balance concerns about the reliability of children's hearsay statements with the public interest in facilitating court cases involving the protection of children and recognizes similar issues are present in proceedings involving vulnerable adult victims.