

***Children & Family Services  
Committee***

***HB 1898***

***Brief Description:*** *Licensing crisis nurseries.*

***Sponsors:*** *Representatives Hankins, Skinner, Tokuda, Boldt, Kenney, Dunn, Keiser, Van Luven, McMorris, Delvin, Mitchell and Santos.*

***Brief Summary of Bill***

- *The bill adds crisis nurseries to the list of agencies that arrange for, or directly provide, out-of-home care to children, expectant mothers or persons with developmental disabilities that are licensed by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).*

***Hearing Date:*** *2/21/01*

***Staff:*** *Deborah Frazier (786-7152).*

***Background:***

*Agencies that arrange for, or directly provide, out-of-home care to children, expectant mothers or persons with developmental disabilities are licensed by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). Licensed entities include: family day care providers and day care centers, group care facilities, crisis residential centers and family foster homes.*

*Crisis nurseries are a type of respite care for children at risk of abuse and/or neglect. The nurseries serve children from birth through age 17, and are operated up to 24 hours daily, and up to seven days a week. Caregivers who need a short break from their children to avoid abuse and/or neglect voluntarily bring the children to the nursery for relief.*

*Currently, five crisis nurseries are operating in the Tri-Cities, Spokane, Everett, Seattle and Yakima. Because this type of program is not included specifically in the definition of agencies that provide out-of-home care for children, expectant mothers or persons with developmental disabilities, the crisis nurseries are licensed as child care centers or group*

*care facilities or foster care providers through the use of a number of waivers.*

***Summary of Bill:***

*The bill defines crisis nurseries and adds them to the list of agencies that arrange for, or directly provide, out-of-home care to children, expectant mothers or persons with developmental disabilities that are licensed by the DSHS.*

***Appropriation:*** *None.*

***Fiscal Note:*** *Available.*

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