
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5184

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Thibaudeau, Winsley, Costa and Kohl-Welles; by request of Department of Social and Health Services)

Read first time 02/20/2001. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring the department of social and health
2 services to notify relevant agencies of investigative outcomes; adding
3 a new section to chapter 74.34 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that vulnerable
6 adults, while living in their own homes, may be abused, neglected,
7 financially exploited, or abandoned by individuals entrusted to provide
8 care for them. The individuals who abuse, neglect, financially
9 exploit, or abandon vulnerable adults may be employed by, under
10 contract with, or volunteering for an agency or program providing care
11 for vulnerable adults. The legislature has given the department of
12 social and health services the responsibility to investigate complaints
13 of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, or neglect of vulnerable
14 adults and to provide protective services and other legal remedies to
15 protect these vulnerable adults. The legislature finds that in order
16 to continue to protect vulnerable adults, the department of social and
17 health services be given the authority to release report information
18 and to release the results of an investigation to the agency or program

1 with which the individual investigated is employed, contracted, or
2 engaged as a volunteer.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.34 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) After the investigation is complete, the department may provide
6 a written report of the outcome of the investigation to an agency or
7 program described in this subsection when the department determines
8 from its investigation that an incident of abuse, abandonment,
9 financial exploitation, or neglect occurred. Agencies or programs that
10 may be provided this report are home health, hospice, or home care
11 agencies, or after January 1, 2002, any in-home services agency
12 licensed under chapter 70.127 RCW, a program authorized under chapter
13 71A.12 RCW, an adult day care or day health program, or other agencies.
14 The report may contain the name of the vulnerable adult and the alleged
15 perpetrator. The report shall not disclose the identity of the person
16 who made the report or any witness without the written permission of
17 the reporter or witness. The department shall notify the alleged
18 perpetrator regarding the outcome of the investigation. The name of
19 the vulnerable adult must not be disclosed during this notification.

20 (2) The department may also refer a report or outcome of an
21 investigation to appropriate state or local governmental authorities
22 responsible for licensing or certification of the agencies or programs
23 listed in subsection (1) of this section.

24 (3) The department shall adopt rules necessary to implement this
25 section.

--- END ---