SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5473

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State of Washington   **57th Legislature**   **2001 Regular Session**

By Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Thibaudeau, Deccio, Kline, Fairley, McAuliffe, Rasmussen, Long, Winsley and Kohl-Welles; by request of Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development)

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/01.

1   AN ACT Relating to creating a developmental disabilities ombudsman;
2 and creating new sections.

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

4   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that an
5 increasing number of individuals with developmental disabilities
6 receive services in home and community-based settings and are not
7 served by the long-term care ombudsman program. The legislature
8 intends to promote the quality of services and increase consumer
9 protections for individuals with developmental disabilities by
10 investigating the best method of providing ombudsman services.

11   NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of community, trade, and
12 economic development shall, by December 31, 2001, prepare and present
13 to the legislature and the governor, directly or by contract, a report
14 of the feasibility, and advantages and disadvantages, of combining a
15 developmental disabilities ombudsman program with the long-term care
16 ombudsman program in chapter 43.190 RCW and the family and children's
17 ombudsman program in chapter 43.06A RCW. The report shall also
18 incorporate recommendations on having a single state ombudsman program,

1 serving persons in long-term care, persons with developmental
2 disabilities, consumers of mental health services, and persons
3 receiving families and children's services. The report shall provide
4 recommendations on serving persons with developmental disabilities not
5 currently being served by any ombudsman program, avoiding duplication
6 of services, and providing comprehensive services, while respecting the
7 unique needs of individuals.

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