

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SHB 1694

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to the timing of the inspection of boarding homes.

Brief Description: Requiring the department of social and health services to inspect boarding homes at least every eighteen months.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Morrell, Campbell, Cody, Skinner, Clibborn and Dickerson; by request of Department of Social and Health Services).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 2/12/03, 2/20/03 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/10/03, 95-0.

Senate Amended.

Passed Senate: 4/17/03, 48-0.

House Concurred.

Passed House: 4/22/03, 77-21.

Passed Legislature.

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Changes the inspection cycle for boarding homes from annually to at least every 18 months, with a 12-month average.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 13 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Morrell, Vice Chair; Pflug, Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Benson, Campbell, Clibborn, Darneille, Edwards, Moeller, Schual-Berke and Skinner.

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146).

Background:

Boarding homes are currently inspected by the Department of Social and Health Services (Department) at least annually. The Department also inspects adult family homes. The inspection cycle for adult family homes is at least every 18 months.

Summary of Substitute Bill:

The inspection cycle for boarding homes is changed from annually to at least every 18 months, with a 15-month average. The Department of Social and Health Services may delay inspections up to 24 months if the boarding home has had three consecutive inspections without a written notice of violations.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Lengthening the inspection cycle will give Department staff greater flexibility in deciding when to inspect boarding homes.

Testimony Against: Eighteen months is too long to go between inspections.

Testified: (In support) Pat Lashway, Department of Social and Health Services.

(Opposed) Kary Hyre, Long-term Care Ombudsman.