

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## EHB 1010

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Children & Family Services & Corrections, April 4, 2003

**Title:** An act relating to discharge of a minor from a mental health facility.

**Brief Description:** Changing provisions relating to discharge of a minor from a mental health facility.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Dickerson, Delvin, Kenney, Sullivan and Darneille.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Children & Family Services & Corrections: 4/2/03, 4/4/03 [DP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

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**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Stevens, Chair; Parlette, Vice Chair; Carlson, Deccio, Hargrove, McAuliffe and Regala.

**Staff:** Fara Daun (786-7459)

**Background:** Under current law, a child who is at least 13 years old can consent to an inpatient or outpatient mental health treatment. When a minor is admitted for inpatient treatment and requests release from the facility in writing, the facility must release the child immediately.

**Summary of Bill:** When a child, aged 13 or over, consents to inpatient treatment and requests release in writing, the facility must release the child within two judicial days.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on March 19, 2003.

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

**Testimony For:** The issue is children checking themselves out and treatment providers believing that they can't hold a child who was admitted by his or her parent.

**Testimony Against:** There are concerns because the proposed amendment is very different than the underlying bill, and there hasn't been a chance to review it.

**Testified:** Representative Jerome Delvin, co-sponsor (pro); Laurie Lippold, Children's Home Society (concerns).