

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## ESSB 5692

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As Passed Senate, March 17, 2003

**Title:** An act relating to health and human services and information referral.

**Brief Description:** Establishing a 211 network.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Children & Family Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Carlson, Hargrove, Esser, Parlette, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe and Rasmussen).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Children & Family Services & Corrections: 2/25/03, 3/4/03 [DPS].  
Passed Senate: 3/17/03, 46-3.

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

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**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5692 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

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

**Staff:** Tony Rugel (786-7754)

**Background:** 2-1-1 networks existing in several other states provide a single phone number for people to use to access health and human services and disaster related information. It is felt that 2-1-1 networks can provide a more efficient, cost-effective, and simple way of providing people with information about government services.

**Summary of Bill:** The Department of Social and Health Services and the Washington Information Network 2-1-1 (WIN 2-1-1) work in conjunction to establish and maintain a network consisting of call centers and a statewide resource data base. A 2-1-1 account is created in the state treasury from public and private funds and is used for granting purposes to develop, operate, and maintain the network.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 24, 2003.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect on July 1, 2003.

**Testimony For:** Emphasis was given to the importance of having one phone number for citizens to call when in need of services from the state.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** PRO: Dennis Smith, Washington Information Network (WIN 211); Tom Page, WIN 211; Dave Dittmore, Wash. Util. and Transp. Comm.; Ed Hidano, DSHS.