

6524-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Children & Family Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Hargrove and Stevens; by request of Department of Social and Health Services)

Brief Description: Revising provisions relating to guardianship of dependent children.

SB 6524-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Finds that guardianship for some children who have been found to be dependent children under chapter 13.34 RCW and who cannot live with their parents is a valuable resource for such children needing stability in their lives when such placement is in the best interests of the child.

Declares an intent to enhance family preservation and stability for children by recognizing the value of permanent placement with relatives or other long-term caregivers, dismissal of dependencies, and elimination of the need for continued governmental intervention in family life.

Declares an intent to expand opportunities for children to remain with relatives or long-term caregivers when they can no longer live with their parents through provision of support to relatives and unrelated persons who are willing and able to serve as guardians for the children.

Declares an intent to preserve sibling relationships through placement of siblings together when such placement is in the best interests of the siblings.