

**HB 2397 - DIGEST**

(SEE ALSO PROPOSED 1ST SUB)

Provides that, to the extent funding is appropriated in the operating budget, the department shall establish a pilot program to support collaborative local efforts to select, implement, and ensure quality evidence-based mental health services provided to children by December 2006.

Requires the department to utilize the University of Washington school of medicine's department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences division of public behavioral health and justice to provide support and assistance in all phases of the pilot program including initiating, implementing, and monitoring the pilot program.

Requires that, beginning in July 2007, the Washington state institute for public policy shall conduct a study of the pilot program measuring improvements in the delivery of mental health services to children. The institute shall issue a report containing its preliminary findings to the legislature by December 1, 2007, and a final report by December 1, 2008.

Declares that implementation of this program is subject to the availability of funds.