SB 6635-S.E - DIGEST

<u>(DIGEST AS ENACTED)</u>

Directs the department to create standardized training to be provided to all department employees involved in the placement of a child to assure compliance with Title IV of the civil rights act of 1964 and the multiethnic placement act of 1994, as amended by the interethnic adoption provisions of the small business job protection act of 1996. Such training shall be open to agency employees.

Requires the department of health, in cooperation with the department of social and health services, to recommend a process for the efficient collection, compilation, and annual publication of adoption statistical data, including data regarding fees, costs, and expenses paid by adoptive families. In developing recommendations, the department of health and the department of social and health services shall consider current processes and requirements for adoption data collection and reporting. The department of health shall report to the legislature not later than October 1, 2006, regarding its recommendations.

Requires the department of social and health services to, in consultation with adoption advocates, representatives of adoption agencies, adoption attorneys, child-placing agencies, birth and adoptive parents and adapters, federally recognized tribes, and representatives of the superior court judges: (1) Review the fees associated with children adopted out of the foster care system who are dependents of the state of Washington. The review shall include a determination of whether fees or any other factors are barriers to adoptions of children out of the foster care system; and

(2) Study accreditation standards developed for adoption agencies, including the standards developed by the council on accreditation for children and family services. The department shall brief the legislature by January 1, 2007, on recommendations related to accreditation standards and reducing any barriers that may exist pertaining to the adoption of children who are dependents of the state of Washington.

Repeals RCW 26.33.410.