

SB 6841 - DIGEST

Declares an intent to establish an alternative, flexible approach to responding to allegations of child maltreatment in low-risk families who do not present immediate child safety concerns. This differential response is intended to reduce disruption to families and improve child safety by assessing a family's needs, engaging the family's protective capacities, and providing appropriate services to prevent future maltreatment.

Directs the Washington state institute for public policy to study the family assessment response demonstration program and report to the legislature by January 31, 2009. In consultation with the department, the institute shall define the data to be gathered and maintained for the purpose of the study. At a minimum, the study must review child safety outcomes and rereferrals to child protective services.

Provides that the act shall be null and void if appropriations are not approved.