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HOUSE BILL 1439

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Hinkle, Condotta, Curtis, Haler, Moeller,  
Kristiansen and Dunn

Read first time 01/19/2007. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1            AN ACT Relating to a study to review the age of consent in  
2 Washington; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1) The Washington state institute for  
5 public policy shall review Washington law to determine all areas in  
6 Washington law in which the age of consent is statutorily established  
7 including but not limited to entering a marriage contract, entering  
8 into a legal contractual obligation, executing a will, the ability to  
9 vote, making health care decisions, receiving mental health or chemical  
10 dependency treatment, and obtaining body piercings or tattoos.

11            (2) The institute shall review available studies and reports  
12 pertaining to the ability of a minor to provide consent, including  
13 studies on adolescent brain development. The review should include  
14 information available on the ability of a minor to understand the  
15 long-term effects or consequences of his or her decisions, his or her  
16 ability to provide consent at various ages, and at what age a minor is  
17 best able to provide consent.

18            (3) The institute shall provide a report to the appropriate  
19 legislative committees by December 1, 2007. The report shall include

1 a comparison of the Washington statutes reviewed in subsection (1) of  
2 this section that includes the age at which a minor is statutorily  
3 permitted to consent.

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