

**SB 5246-S - DIGEST**

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Revises provisions affecting the placement of children.

Declares that the department or agency supervising the child's placement has the authority to place the child, subject to review and approval by the court: (1) With a relative as defined in RCW 74.15.020(2)(a);

(2) In a foster family home or group care facility licensed pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW; or

(3) In the home of another suitable person if the child or family has a preexisting relationship with that person, and the person has completed all required criminal history background checks and otherwise appears to the department or supervising agency to be suitable and competent to provide care for the child. Absent good cause, the department or supervising agency shall follow the wishes of the natural parent regarding the placement of the child in accordance with RCW 13.34.260. The department or supervising agency may only place a child with a person not related to the child as defined in RCW 74.15.020(2)(a) when the court finds that such placement is in the best interest of the child.