

SB 6206-S - DIGEST

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 2ND SUB)

Provides, in the event of a child whose fatality or near fatality is the result of apparent abuse by his or her parent or caregiver, the review team shall be comprised of individuals who had no involvement in the case but whose professional expertise is pertinent to the dynamics of the case.

Provides, upon conclusion of a child fatality or near fatality review required under RCW 74.13.640, the department shall issue a report on the results of the review within one hundred eighty days following the unexpected death or near fatality of the child, unless an extension has been granted by the governor.

Requires the office of the family and children's ombudsman to issue an annual report to the legislature on the status of the implementation of child fatality and near fatality review recommendations.

Provides, if a report of alleged abuse or neglect is founded and constitutes the third founded report received by the department within the last twelve months involving the same child or family, the department shall promptly notify the office of the family and children's ombudsman of the contents of the report. The department shall also notify the ombudsman of the disposition of the report.

Provides, upon receiving a report of alleged abuse or neglect involving a child under the court's jurisdiction under chapter 13.34 RCW, the department shall promptly notify the child's guardian ad litem of the report's contents. The department shall also notify the guardian ad litem of the disposition of the report.

Requires the ombudsman to review all referrals made by mandated reporters during 2006 and 2007 and report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the following: The number and types of referrals from mandated reporters; the disposition of the referrals by category of mandated reporters; how many referrals resulted in the filing of dependency actions; any patterns established by the department in how it dealt with such referrals; whether the history of fatalities in 2006 and 2007 showed referrals by mandated reporters; and any other information the ombudsman deems relevant. The report is due no later than December 31, 2008.