

**SHB 2295 - H AMD 433**

By Representative Santos

**SCOPE AND OBJECT 03/23/2009**

1 On page 2, after line 22, insert the following:

2 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The legislature finds that the  
3 administration of the refugee immigrant assistance program by the  
4 department of social and health services lacks transparency and  
5 accountability. Specifically, the legislature finds that the  
6 department has failed to manage appropriated funds in a manner that  
7 ensures full and timely communications with community-based providers  
8 about contracting, billing, and payments. This gross failure to work  
9 cooperatively with contract providers has contributed to the  
10 underspending of appropriated funds in the biennium, effectively thus  
11 denying needed assistance to individuals who are eligible for services  
12 through the refugee immigrant assistance program. The legislature  
13 further finds that the department is aware of these grave  
14 administrative deficiencies, but has not adequately resolved these  
15 issues in a satisfactory manner. Therefore, the legislature determines  
16 that any reorganization of the department of social and health services  
17 required under this act must improve the transparency of and  
18 administrative accountability for the refugee immigrant assistance  
19 program. The secretary shall conduct quality improvement and quality  
20 assurance surveys with contract providers and consumers of refugee  
21 immigrant assistance program services to determine how reorganization  
22 of the department affects the delivery of services and shall report  
23 these results to the appropriate legislative committees.

24 (2) If the secretary of the department of social and health  
25 services does not adequately correct the deficiencies in the refugee  
26 immigrant assistance program by June 1, 2009, the program shall be  
27 transferred to the department of community, trade, and economic  
28 development effective July 1, 2009, and the 2009-2011 biennial budget  
29 shall be adjusted to maintain funding for the program at the level  
30 appropriated by the legislature for the 2007-2009 biennium."

1 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Declares a legislative finding that the Refugee Immigrant Assistance program within the Department of Social and Health Services is seriously mismanaged and that any reorganization of the Department must address the problems with the Refugee Immigrant Assistance program. Transfers the program to the department of community, trade, and economic development and requires the 2009-11 biennial budget be adjusted to maintain funding for the Refugee Immigrant Assistance program at the level appropriated by the legislature during the 2007-09 biennium.

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