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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5102**

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**State of Washington**

**62nd Legislature**

**2011 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Carrell, Stevens, Schoesler, Pflug, Ericksen, Roach, and Holmquist Newbry)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/11.

1       AN ACT Relating to registered persons in adult family homes,  
2       boarding homes, and other assisted living situations; and creating new  
3       sections.

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

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.**   (1) The legislature acknowledges that  
6       housing options for sex offenders in the community continue to be a  
7       challenge. While sex offender registration and notification serves an  
8       important purpose in giving information to the public so that they may  
9       keep themselves safe, it has had the counterproductive impact of  
10      reducing available housing for these individuals. Housing can also  
11      serve an important safety function by providing stability and giving  
12      law enforcement a known location where a sex offender resides.

13      (2) This problem is only exacerbated when a sex offender is aging  
14      and/or has health-related issues. Available housing options are  
15      further limited and specialty providers may house other vulnerable  
16      populations. Often, providers do not have the proper training to  
17      understand how to recognize risky behavior that may put others at risk  
18      or who to contact for help in serving these populations. Further,

1 housing these individuals in a prison or other institutional setting  
2 becomes costly for the state when their physical infirmities could be  
3 better cared for elsewhere.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The sex offender policy board shall conduct  
5 a thorough review of the housing options for sex offenders who are  
6 aging and/or have health-related issues and therefore need some form of  
7 assisted living. By December 1, 2011, the sex offender policy board  
8 shall report to the governor and the legislature regarding:

9 (1) To the extent determinable, the scope of the need for housing,  
10 including sex offender populations that may be released from the  
11 special commitment center and department of corrections as well as  
12 aging sex offenders already in the community;

13 (2) The types of housing available for these populations and how  
14 they are being served currently including adult family homes, boarding  
15 homes, nursing homes, or other housing situations;

16 (3) Recommended policy options to increase available housing while  
17 protecting the general public and other vulnerable persons.

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