# SENATE BILL REPORT
# SB 5163

As of February 1, 2013

**Title**:  An act relating to child protective services workers.

**Brief Description**:  Requiring that child protective service workers be licensed as social workers and bonded.

**Sponsors**:  Senators Roach, Benton, Holmquist Newbry, Shin and Chase.

**Brief History:**
   **Committee Activity**:  Human Services & Corrections:  1/28/13.

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

   **Staff**:  Shani Bauer (786-7468)

**Background**:   According to a report issued in 2008 by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee entitled "Children's Administration Social Worker Qualifications," The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)has four caseworker classifications.  A master's degree in social work or an allied field is desired at each level but is not required.  A bachelor's degree in a social or human services field is the minimum requirement.  The amount of experience depends on the classification level, but case-carrying caseworkers are required to have at least two years of experience, one of which consists of full-time paid experience assessing risk and safety to children and providing direct family-centered practice services.

**Summary of Bill**:  A child protective services worker must be licensed in good standing by the Department of Health in a social worker classification under RCW Title 18.225, and bonded.  These requirements apply if the worker is directly engaged in:
   • the investigation of reports of alleged child abuse or neglect;
   • the assessment of risk of abuse or neglect to children; or
   • the provision of or referral to services designed to remedy the conditions that endanger the health, safety, and welfare of children.

**Appropriation**:  None.

**Fiscal Note**:  Requested on January 22, 2013.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created**:  No.

**Effective Date**:  Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.