

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5316

C 48 L 13
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Adopting a model policy to require a third person to be present during interviews.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Becker and Carrell).

Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections
House Committee on Early Learning & Human Services

Background: In conducting an investigation of alleged abuse or neglect, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) or law enforcement agencies may interview children. The interviews may be conducted on school premises, at day-care facilities, at the child's home, or at other suitable locations outside the presence of the parents. Parental notification of the interview must occur at the earliest possible point in the investigation that will not jeopardize the safety or protection of the child or the investigation.

Prior to commencing the interview, DSHS or the law enforcement agency must determine whether the child wishes a third party to be present for the interview and, if so, must make reasonable efforts to accommodate the child's wishes. Unless the child objects, DSHS or the law enforcement agency must make reasonable efforts to include a third party in the interview so long as the presence of the third party would not jeopardize the course of the investigation.

Summary: The Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) must adopt a model policy to implement statutory provisions regarding the interview of children in child abuse and neglect investigations on school premises. The Association must consult with DSHS and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) in formulating its policy.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	49	0
House	94	0

Effective: July 28, 2013
December 1, 2013 (Section 2)

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