

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6249

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As of January 13, 2016

**Title:** An act relating to host home programs.

**Brief Description:** Concerning host home programs.

**Sponsors:** Senators O'Ban, Bailey, Darneille, Miloscia, Dammeier, Hasegawa, Carlyle, Litzow and Padden.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Human Services, Mental Health & Housing: 1/14/16.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & LABOR

**Staff:** Alison Mendiola (786-7444)

**Background:** Host home programs link families who need temporary care for their children with families who are willing to provide temporary care for those children. The children are not in the care or custody of the state. Host home programs recruit and screen host families. Host home programs, and host homes, are not regulated by any state agency.

**Summary of Bill:** It is clarified that host home programs and host homes operated by tax-exempt organizations serving youth not in the care of, or receiving services from, the Department of Social and Human Services (DSHS) that meet specific criteria are not considered an "agency" and therefore not subject to regulation by DSHS.

To meet this qualification, a host home program must:

- perform background checks on those over 18 in the host home through the Washington State Patrol or equivalent and inspect the host home as part of their recruiting and screening for potential host homes,
- screen and provide case management to youth in the program;
- obtain notarized permission or limited power of attorney from the parent or legal guardian of the youth participating in the host home program;
- obtain insurance for the program; and
- provide mandatory reporter and confidentiality training.

By July 1, 2017, the Department of Commerce is to report recommendations and best practices for host home programs to the Governor and Legislature.

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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.*

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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

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