
HOUSE BILL 1920

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Wicks and Lekanoff; by request of Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Read first time 01/11/22. Referred to Committee on Children, Youth & Families.

1 AN ACT Relating to investigations of child abuse or neglect at
2 residential facilities; amending RCW 26.44.210; and declaring an
3 emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 26.44.210 and 2019 c 266 s 13 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The department must investigate referrals of alleged child
8 abuse or neglect occurring at the state school for the deaf,
9 including alleged incidents involving students abusing other
10 students; determine whether there is a finding of abuse or neglect;
11 and determine whether a referral to law enforcement is appropriate
12 under this chapter.

13 (2) The department must send a copy of the investigation report,
14 including the finding, regarding any incidents of alleged child abuse
15 or neglect at the state school for the deaf to the director of the
16 Washington center for deaf and hard of hearing youth, or the
17 director's designee. The department may include recommendations to
18 the director and the board of trustees or its successor board for
19 increasing the safety of the school's students.

20 (3) The department must also investigate referrals of alleged
21 child abuse or neglect occurring at substance use disorder treatment

1 facilities including, but not limited to, incidents involving
2 residents abusing other residents and staff abusing residents;
3 determine whether there is a finding of abuse or neglect; and
4 determine whether a referral to law enforcement is appropriate under
5 this chapter. The department and the department of health must adopt
6 rules to implement this section.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
9 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
10 effect immediately.

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