
**Health Care & Wellness
Committee**

HB 1489

Brief Description: Exempting volunteer hospice care centers from licensing requirements under chapter 18.20 or 70.128 RCW.

Sponsors: Representatives VanDeWege, Kessler, Warnick, Blake, Morrell and Lantz.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Exempts volunteer hospice care centers from boarding home and adult family home licensing requirements.

Hearing Date: 2/7/07

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392).

Background:

Hospice care centers are homelike, noninstitutional facilities that provide symptom and pain management to terminally ill individuals as well as emotional, spiritual and bereavement support for individuals and their families. Hospice care centers must be licensed by the Department of Health (Department) which maintains regulations relating to operating standards, staffing requirements, residential care and rights, facility requirements, pharmaceutical services, nutritional services, and laundry services. An organization that provides hospice care without receiving compensation for its services is not required to obtain a license if it notifies the Department of its volunteer status.

Boarding homes are facilities that provide housing and basic services, and assume general responsibility for the safety and well-being of seven or more residents. The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is responsible for licensing and overseeing the operation of boarding homes. The Department is responsible for the construction review and approval process.

Adult family homes are facilities licensed to care for up to six individuals who need long-term care. These homes provide room, board, laundry, necessary supervision, assistance with activities

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of daily living, personal care, and nursing services if necessary. DSHS is responsible for licensing adult family homes, which provide community-based residential care for elderly and disabled individuals.

Summary of Bill:

Volunteer hospice care centers are exempt from boarding home and adult family home licensing requirements.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.