

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2360

As Reported by House Committee On: Ways & Means

Title: An act relating to consolidation of administrative services for AIDS grants in the department of health.

Brief Description: Concerning consolidation of administrative services for AIDS grants in the department of health.

Sponsors: Representative Darneille.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Ways & Means: 4/16/09 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Eliminates regional AIDS service networks (AIDSNETs) and regional HIV/AIDS planning activities.
- Directs the Department of Health to distribute grants directly to community service providers, rather than through the AIDSNETs.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 22 members: Representatives Linville, Chair; Ericks, Vice Chair; Alexander, Ranking Minority Member; Bailey, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Dammeier, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Chandler, Cody, Conway, Darneille, Haigh, Hinkle, Hunt, Hunter, Kagi, Kenney, Kessler, Pettigrew, Priest, Ross, Schmick, Seaquist and Sullivan.

Staff: Chris Blake (786-7392)

Background:

In 1988 regional AIDS service networks (AIDSNETs) were established to serve as local entities that conduct planning activities for coordinating the availability of community

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services for individuals who are HIV-positive or have AIDS. The boundaries of the AIDSNETs reflect the Department of Social and Health Services' six-region service system. The most populous county in each region is designated as the lead county to coordinate with the local health departments within the region to develop a regional plan. The regional plans include components related to administration; available services; a service delivery model; and budget, staffing, and caseload projections.

The Department of Health contracts with the AIDSNETs to implement the plans within each region. The plans emphasize contracting with community service providers, such as hospitals, major volunteer organizations, and health care organizations, to implement the plans. The Department of Health provides funding to the community providers through the AIDSNETs to conduct plan-related activities.

Summary of Bill:

As of January 1, 2010, regional AIDS service networks (AIDSNETs) are eliminated and the requirement to conduct regional planning for community services for individuals with AIDS is discontinued. The Department of Health (Department), rather than the AIDSNETs, is responsible for distributing grants to support community services for people who are HIV-positive or have AIDS. The Department shall establish criteria for awarding the grants for testing, counseling, education, case management, notification of sexual partners regarding infected individuals, planning, coordination, and intervention strategies for high risk individuals.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on April 15, 2009.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on January 1, 2010.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This bill is motivated by the intention to restrict cuts to AIDS programs to those cuts that are strictly administrative. There is not much new in service provision that justifies the extent of planning that occurs. As administrative costs have grown, the actual money that goes to programs has been reduced.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Darneille, prime sponsor.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.