

5670-S

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Niemi and West)

Brief Description: Changing provisions relating to children's mental health.

SB 5670-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Provides a definition of a "severely emotionally disturbed child."

Assigns a priority for access to county community mental health programs for severely emotionally disturbed children.

Repeals RCW 71.24.800.

VETO MESSAGE ON SB 5670-S

May 20, 1991

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to section 4, Substitute Senate Bill No. 5670, entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to screening and treatment of children for mental health services."

I am pleased with the efforts this year to organize an effective mental health system for children. The legislators involved have successfully passed thoughtful legislation which will improve the lives of children in our state.

Section 4 of this bill conflicts with section 13 of Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1608, in that it also requires a legislative report with plans for folding the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment program into the children's mental health system. Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1608 also contains language requiring an inventory of all children's mental health programs as well as proposals for reducing categorical barriers to serving children. These requirements will produce valuable products.

For that reason, I will sign that provision into law and have vetoed section 4 of this bill. In doing so, I have directed the Office of Financial Management and the Department of Social and Health Services staff to develop a report that responds to the requirements in both bills.

With the exception of section 4, Substitute Senate Bill No. 5670 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Booth Gardner
Governor