# HOUSE BILL REPORT HB 1675

## As Reported By House Committee On:

Children & Family Services

**Title:** An act relating to public assistance applicants.

**Brief Description:** Requiring the department of social and health services to determine if public assistance applicants are fugitives from justice.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Koster, Campbell, Ballasiotes, Radcliff, Carrell, Stevens, Smith, McMorris, Pennington, Clements, Blanton, Sherstad, Benton, Boldt and Honeyford.

#### **Brief History:**

### **Committee Activity:**

Children & Family Services: 2/23/95, 2/28/95 [DP].

#### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Cooke, Chairman; Lambert, Vice Chairman; Stevens, Vice Chairman; Boldt; Buck; Carrell and Padden.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 4 members: Representatives Thibaudeau, Ranking Minority Member; Brown, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Patterson and Tokuda.

**Staff:** David Knutson (786-7146).

**Background:** The Department of Social and Health Services is required to disclose the address and location of people described in a felony arrest warrant or a warrant for an illegal alien after receiving a written request from an officer of the law or United States immigration official. The department does not currently determine whether applicants for assistance are fugitives from justice.

**Summary of Bill:** Requires the Department of Social and Health Services to determine whether applicants are fugitives from justice. If the department determines an applicant is a fugitive from justice it will notify the appropriate law enforcement agency and deny the applicant assistance.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 16, 1995.

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

**Testimony For:** The legislation should be amended to repeal statutes related to indigent funerals and burials.

**Testimony Against:** Screening all public assistance applicants to determine if any of them are fugitives from justice will require increased appropriations for additional state employees and computer equipment.

**Testified:** Bill Bergh, Department of Social and Health Services (concerns); T.K. Bentler, Washington State Funeral Directors' Association; James H. Noel, Washington State Funeral Directors' Association (pro); Lacrese Green; and B.D. Daly, Washington State Funeral Directors' Association.