

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1880

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### As Passed House:

March 14, 1995

**Title:** An act relating to welfare fraud.

**Brief Description:** Making persons convicted of certain crimes relating to receipt of public assistance ineligible for public assistance for five years.

**Sponsors:** By House Committee on Children & Family Service (originally sponsored by Representatives Boldt, Benton, Schoesler, L. Thomas, Carrell, Johnson, Radcliff, Blanton, McMahan, Campbell, Smith, Honeyford, Silver and Thompson).

### Brief History:

#### Committee Activity:

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

#### Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/14/95, 84-14.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

**Majority Report:** The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 8 members: Representatives Cooke, Chairman; Lambert, Vice Chairman; Stevens, Vice Chairman; Boldt; Buck; Carrell; Padden and Patterson.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass. Signed by 3 members: Representatives Thibaudeau, Ranking Minority Member; Brown, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; and Tokuda.

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

**Background:** If a recipient of public assistance is convicted of a crime or offense and imprisoned, their assistance is ended during the period of imprisonment. At the end of their imprisonment if they meet eligibility standards they resume receiving public assistance.

**Summary of Bill:** Recipients of public assistance who provide false or misleading information to qualify for or retain eligibility for assistance will be ineligible six months for a first offense, 12 months for a second offense, and permanently ineligible for a third offense.

**Appropriation:** None.

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

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

**Testimony For:** None.

**Testimony Against:** People on public assistance have a difficult time making ends meet on the current welfare grant. This legislation imposes a penalty which is too severe.

**Testified:** Bill Bergh, Department of Social and Health Services (concerns); and Gwen L. Orwiler, Fair Budget Action Campaign (con).