

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.