

SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 6245

As Passed Senate, February 7, 1996

Title: An act relating to child death investigations.

Brief Description: Requiring child death investigations and reports.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Thibaudeau, Prentice, Goings, Wood, Sheldon, Winsley, Quigley, Wojahn, Smith, Fraser, Moyer, Franklin, McAuliffe, Deccio and Rasmussen).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 1/23/96, 1/25/96 [DPS].
Passed Senate, 2/7/96, 46-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6245 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Wojahn, Vice Chair; Deccio, Fairley, Franklin, Moyer, Thibaudeau, Winsley and Wood.

Staff: Joanne Conrad (786-7472)

Background: In 1995, the Legislature passed SHB 1035, requiring the Department of Health and the Department of Social and Health Services, along with coroners, medical examiners and others, to develop a process for consistent review of the unexpected deaths of minors in the care of DSHS. The group made a report to the Legislature in December, 1995. This bill represents the recommendations arising from that report.

Summary of Bill: DSHS Regional Administrators perform fact-finding, in the event of unexpected deaths of minors in the care of DSHS. After receiving the results of the fact-finding, a multidisciplinary community child death review team convenes to review the death. Results of these reviews are provided in an annual joint report to the Legislature.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 10, 1996.

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

Testimony For: Better quality investigation of unexpected, unexplained child deaths is needed. Citizen input is important, including participation by foster caregivers.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Senator Thibaudeau, prime sponsor; Don Knapp, Foster Parents Assn.; Rita Schmidt, Department of Health; Jackie Der, UW Medical Center; Ruth Kagy, Lauria Grace Fatality Review Team.