

HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

SSB 5512

Title: *An act relating to admittance of guilt in child abuse and neglect.*

Brief Description: *Prohibiting requiring the admission of guilt to receive treatment in child abuse and neglect.*

Sponsors: *Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Stevens, Hargrove, Benton, Haugen, Strannigan, Hochstatter, Rasmussen, Schow and Oke).*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Meeting Date: *April 1, 1997.*

Bill Analysis Prepared by: *Doug Ruth (786-7134).*

Background: *In a dependency proceeding, a court may order a parent who has physically or sexually abused their child to temporarily leave the home. The parent must complete treatment and education for abusive behavior before a court may allow the parent to return home. The court may also require the parent to continue treatment as a condition of remaining in the home.*

Summary of Bill: *A parent does not need to admit guilt to complete treatment or education ordered by a court unless the parent is found guilty of the acts that are the subject of the dependency action in a criminal proceeding.*

Appropriation: *None.*

Fiscal Note: *Not requested.*

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