

1784

Sponsor(s): Representatives Boldt, Bush, Cooke, Lambert, L. Thomas, Backlund and Sullivan

Brief Title: Regulating public assistance fraud.

HB 1784 - DIGEST

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Provides that there is established in DSHS an office of chief investigator in order to create an independent unit to: (1) Conduct and supervise investigations relating to allegations of fraud or abuse;

(2) provide leadership and coordination in recommending policies and procedures designed to detect and prevent fraud and abuse; and

(3) provide a method of informing the secretary and the legislature about vulnerabilities and deficiencies relating to the detection and prevention of fraud or abuse as may be discovered as a result of completed investigations conducted or coordinated by the office.

Designates the office of chief investigator as a criminal justice agency as defined in RCW 10.97.030 and 43.43.705.

Transfers all powers, duties, and functions of the division of fraud investigation pertaining to the investigation of fraud and abuse to the office of the chief investigator of the department of social and health services.

Directs the department to transfer to the Washington state patrol all administrative investigations focusing on department employees that concern: (1) Alleged criminal conduct constituting a gross misdemeanor or a felony; or

(2) administrative investigations involving allegations of willful or wanton disregard for the policies and procedures of the department.