

6544-S2

Sponsor(s): Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Deccio, Franklin, Wood, Wojahn and Winsley)

Brief Title: Providing for adult family home and boarding home training.

**SB 6544-S2 - DIGEST**

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Directs that the minimum training standards for licensees serving residents with special needs, such as mental illness, dementia, or a developmental disability, be reviewed, and that licensees receive additional appropriate training, and that the training delivery system be improved.

Directs the department of health to review, in coordination with the department of social and health services, the nursing care quality assurance commission, adult family home providers, boarding home providers, in-home personal care providers, and long-term care consumers and advocates, training standards for administrators and resident caregiving staff. The departments and the commission shall submit to the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the senate by December 1, 1998, specific recommendations on training standards and the delivery system, including necessary statutory changes and funding requirements.

Provides that the facility shall only admit or retain individuals whose needs it can safely and appropriately serve in the facility with appropriate available staff or through the provision of reasonable accommodations required by state or federal law.

Requires that each resident and his or her representative must be informed in writing in advance of changes in the availability or the charges for services, items, or activities, or of changes in the facility's rules.

VETO MESSAGE ON SB 6544-S2

April 1, 1998

To the Honorable President and Members,  
The Senate of the State of Washington  
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to sections 18, 19, 20 and 21, Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 6544 entitled:  
"AN ACT Relating to improving long-term care;"

2SSB 6544 takes care of many issues dealing with adult family homes, boarding homes and long-term care, and, most importantly, transfers the oversight of boarding homes from the Department of Health to the Department of Social and Health Services. This is well-conceived and ambitious legislation, and will go far toward ensuring the safety and quality of care for residents of our adult family and boarding homes.

Sections 18, 19, 20, and 21 would specify when residents of boarding and adult family homes who become bedbound as the result

of illness must be seen by a licensed practitioner, and define those practitioners and their duties. While I agree with the intentions of those sections, they would conflict with current patients' rights to refuse treatment and to maintain their preferred residences. Also, those sections are unclear as to provider and resident responsibilities when disagreements arise from such conflicts. Additionally, the impact on people's abilities to pay for additional service has not been analyzed. Before implementing changes in care requirements, additional comment needs to be sought from residents, families and all interested parties, as well as the joint task force created by this bill.

For these reasons, I have vetoed sections 18, 19, 20 and 21 of Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 6544.

With the exception of sections 18, 19, 20 and 21, Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 6544 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Locke  
Governor