

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1810

---

---

### As Passed Legislature

**Title:** An act relating to technical amendments concerning the child abuse protection and treatment act.

**Brief Description:** Amending the child abuse protection and treatment act.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Boldt and Tokuda; by request of Department of Social and Health Services.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Children & Family Services: 2/17/99, 2/24/99 [DP].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 3/5/99, 97-0.

Senate Receded.

House Concurred.

Passed Legislature.

<h3>Brief Summary of Bill</h3>
--------------------------------

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· The Department of Social and Health Services is authorized to release information about child abuse and neglect investigations when the child is the victim of a near-fatality.</li></ul> |
|---|

---

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 10 members: Representatives D. Sommers, Republican Co-Chair; Tokuda, Democratic Co-Chair; Boldt, Republican Vice Chair; Kagi, Democratic Vice Chair; Campbell; Carrell; Dickerson; Eickmeyer; Kastama and Pflug.

**Staff:** David Knutson (786-7146).

**Background:**

The Department of Social and Health Services is required to disclose information regarding the abuse or neglect of a child, the investigation of the abuse or neglect, and any services related to the abuse or neglect under certain circumstances.

---

**Summary of Bill:**

The department will also disclose the required information in cases where the child is the victim of a near-fatality.

Courts are required to appoint a guardian ad litem for a child in a dependency proceeding if a party challenges a finding of the court.

---

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

**Testimony For:** The federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act requires states to release information to the public when a child is the victim of a near-fatality.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** (In support) Carole Holland, Department of Social and Health Services.