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HOUSE BILL 1409

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Representatives Lambert, Benson, Boldt, G. Chandler, Mulliken,  
Koster, Sheahan and Schindler

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to child welfare services; adding a new section to  
2 chapter 43.06A RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 74.13 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.06A RCW  
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) Upon the request of a member of the legislature, the ombudsman  
7 shall ask a complainant to authorize the release to the member of all  
8 information related to the complaint. If the complainant agrees to a  
9 release of information, the ombudsman shall periodically inform the  
10 member of the status of the complaint, and upon closure of the case,  
11 inform the member of how the case was resolved.

12 (2) In performing an investigation of a complaint received by the  
13 ombudsman, the ombudsman must consider all the documents provided by  
14 the complainant.

15 (3) The ombudsman shall track the number of complaints regarding  
16 employees of each community services office. If the number of  
17 complaints regarding a community services office is significantly  
18 higher than the number of complaints received regarding other offices,

1 the ombudsman shall inform the governor of the number of complaints  
2 regarding the office and the nature of the complaints.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 Prior to terminating the placement of a child in a foster home due  
6 to findings of abuse or neglect that involve injury to the child, the  
7 department shall have the child's injuries examined by a physician.

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