

***Children & Family Services
Committee***

SSB 5537

Brief Description: *Regulating internet advertisement for adoption.*

Sponsors: *By Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Franklin, Hochstatter, Winsley, Regala, Prentice, Patterson, Rasmussen, Hargrove, Costa, Kohl-Welles, Long, Shin, Kastama, Fairley, Thibaudeau, Eide, Snyder, Kline, T. Sheldon, Jacobsen, Constantine, Stevens and Oke).*

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- *Prohibits using electronic mail or websites to advertise a child for adoption or the ability to place or receive a child for adoption by unauthorized persons or agencies.*

Hearing Date: *3/26/01*

Staff: *Tracey Taylor (786-7196).*

Background:

Advertising a child offered for adoption or the ability to place or receive a child for adoption is prohibited unless the person or entity responsible for the advertisement is: (1) a duly authorized agent, contractee, or employee of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), (2) a children's agency or institution licensed by DSHS to care for and place children, or (3) a person who has completed a preplacement form and received a favorable recommendation as to his or her fitness to be an adoptive parent.

An advertisement is defined as a communication by newspaper, radio, television, handbills, placards, or other print, broadcast, or the electronic medium.

Summary of Bill:

The definition of advertisement is amended to include electronic mail and websites; thus only authorized persons or agencies may advertise a child offered for adoption or the

ability to place or receive a child for adoption using electronic mail and websites.

Appropriation: *None.*

Fiscal Note: *Available.*

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