

HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

HB 2912

Title: An act relating to use of psychiatric medications by children in state custody.

Brief Description: Requiring the department of social and health services to maintain records on children in state custody who are using psychiatric medications.

Sponsors: Representatives Boldt and Clements.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Meeting Date: February 2, 2000.

Bill Analysis Prepared by: Tracey Taylor (786-7196).

Background: Concerns have been raised that children with emotional and behavioral problems are being excessively medicated. Yet, little information on the level of use of psychiatric medication, and how it is related to psychiatric disorders, is available.

Summary of Bill: The department will maintain a record identifying the number of children in state care who are currently using psychiatric medications. It shall indicate the type of medication being use and when the use began. A report, with any identifying information redacted, shall be delivered to the legislature by December 15, 2000.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 25, 2000.

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