

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5147

C 4 L 13
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning juveniles and runaway children.

Sponsors: Senators Hargrove, Carrell, Hewitt, Darneille and Shin.

Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections
House Committee on Early Learning & Human Services

Background: Any person providing shelter to a minor who knows that the youth is absent from home without parental permission must notify the youth's parent, law enforcement, or the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) of the youth's location within eight hours of becoming aware that the youth is away from home without permission. A previous version of this bill, ESHB 2752, passed in 2010 with a sunset date, and its provisions expired on July 1, 2012.

Summary: Licensed overnight youth shelters or licensed organizations whose stated purpose is to provide services to homeless or runaway youth and their families must comply with the following notice requirements when providing services to a youth known to be away from home without permission:

- Within 72 hours, and preferably within 24 hours, shelter or organization staff must notify the youth's parents of the whereabouts of the youth, a description of the youth's physical and emotional condition, and the circumstances surrounding the youth's contact with the shelter or organization.
- If there are compelling reasons not to notify the parent, including but not limited to the possibility that the minor will be subjected to child abuse or neglect, the shelter or organization must instead notify DSHS.
- After learning that the minor is a runaway, the shelter or organization staff must consult the information made publicly available by the Washington State Patrol (WSP) at least once every eight hours.
- If the WSP indicates that the youth is reported as missing, the shelter or organization staff must immediately notify DSHS of its contact with the youth.

No person, unlicensed youth shelter, or runaway and homeless youth program is prohibited from immediately reporting the identity or location of any minor who is away from home without parental permission.

Votes on Final Passage:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Senate 49 0
House 89 7

Effective: July 28, 2013.