

**SENATE BILL REPORT**

**SB 5761**

**AS OF MARCH 4, 1991**

**Brief Description:** Extending the hospice program of the department of social and health services.

**SPONSORS:** Senators Amondson and Niemi; by request of Office of Financial Management and Dept. of Social & Health Services.

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE**

**Staff:** Don Sloma (786-7414)

**Hearing Dates:** March 5, 1991

**BACKGROUND:**

Beginning in July, 1989 the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) was required to offer hospice services as part of its medical assistance program. Under current law, the hospice benefit will terminate on June 30, 1991.

A DSHS report on the cost of providing hospice services in 16 cases identified a 70 percent savings over the cost of conventional care.

**SUMMARY:**

The termination of the hospice program is eliminated.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** available

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