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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1534**

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**State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Judiciary (originally sponsored by Representatives H. Myers, Beck, Riley, R. King, Tate, Anderson, Vance, Cooper, Ludwig, Hargrove, Padden, Bray, Rasmussen, Sheldon, Leonard, Forner, Brekke, Peery, Belcher, G. Fisher, Morris, Grant, Jones, O'Brien, Orr, Wang, Heavey, Roland, Paris and Winsley).

Read first time February 22, 1991.

1            AN ACT Relating to training for investigating and prosecuting  
2 sexual assault cases; adding new sections to chapter 36.27 RCW;  
3 creating new sections; and making appropriations.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    FINDINGS.    The safety of all children is  
6 enhanced when sexual assault cases are properly investigated and  
7 prosecuted.    The legislature finds that sexual assault cases,  
8 particularly those in which children are victimized, are difficult to  
9 prosecute successfully.    Successful prosecution of sexual assault cases  
10 requires that the prosecutors and investigators have a high degree of  
11 training and skill in handling sexual assaults.    The legislature  
12 further finds that in the less populated areas of the state, it is  
13 difficult for local prosecutors and law enforcement agencies to obtain  
14 the needed specialization to handle these cases.    Therefore, the

1 legislature intends to establish a mechanism to provide the training  
2 and special investigators to more effectively prosecute these cases.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** TRAINING FOR INVESTIGATING AND PROSECUTING.

4 (1) Each year the criminal justice training commission shall offer an  
5 integrated, intensive, week-long training session on investigating and  
6 prosecuting sexual assault cases for up to twenty prosecuting attorneys  
7 and deputy prosecuting attorneys, twenty public defenders, and twenty  
8 police officers. The training shall place particular emphasis on the  
9 development of professionalism and sensitivity towards the victim and  
10 the victim's family during the investigation and prosecution of sexual  
11 assault cases involving child victims.

12 (2) The commission shall seek advice from the Washington  
13 association of prosecuting attorneys, the Washington defender  
14 association, the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs,  
15 and the Washington coalition of sexual assault programs in planning the  
16 curriculum and recruiting faculty for this program.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** SEXUAL ASSAULT PROSECUTION ASSISTANCE

18 PROGRAM. (1) There is created in the department of community  
19 development the sexual assault prosecution assistance program to assist  
20 county prosecuting attorneys in the investigation and prosecution of  
21 sexual assault and child abuse cases, primarily for those cases  
22 involving child victims. The department of community development shall  
23 contract with the Washington state association of prosecuting attorneys  
24 to employ a project coordinator who shall be responsible for the  
25 hiring, training, assignment, and overall supervision of investigators.

26 (2) The department of community development shall contract with the  
27 Washington state association of prosecuting attorneys to employ ten  
28 investigators who shall be assigned to a prosecuting attorney and shall

1 be under the supervision of the project coordinator. The investigators  
2 shall be specially trained in investigating sexual assault cases, with  
3 primary focus on those cases involving child victims. The project  
4 coordinator shall assign each investigator to a prosecuting attorney in  
5 areas of the state where law enforcement officers who specialize in  
6 investigating child sexual assault or abuse are not available. The  
7 prosecuting attorney shall be responsible for the daily supervision of  
8 the investigators and may agree to make the investigator available for  
9 investigations on a regional basis and may be made available to child  
10 protective services, if requested.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** SEXUAL ASSAULT COMMITTEE. A state-wide  
12 committee on sexual assault is established solely to oversee the sexual  
13 assault prosecution assistance program created in section 3 of this  
14 act. The committee shall be comprised of three prosecuting attorneys,  
15 two police detectives specializing in the investigation of sexual  
16 assault cases involving child victims, one representative of the  
17 department of social and health services, a representative of the  
18 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, two  
19 representatives from the Washington coalition of sexual assault  
20 programs, and four legislators, two from each house, one from each  
21 caucus. The committee shall oversee the program and provide advice to  
22 the project coordinator.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** LEGAL ADVOCATES. The department of social  
24 and health services shall provide up to one legal advocate per sexual  
25 assault program that qualifies for funding under the victims of sexual  
26 assault fund. The legal advocates shall have completed a training  
27 program to be designed and administered by the Washington association

1 of prosecuting attorneys and the Washington coalition of sexual assault  
2 programs.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 through 5 of this act are each  
4 added to chapter 36.27 RCW.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Section headings as used in sections 2  
6 through 5 of this act do not constitute any part of the law.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The sum of ninety thousand dollars, or as  
8 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium  
9 ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the criminal justice  
10 training commission for the purposes of section 2 of this act.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The sum of one million two hundred eighty  
12 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is  
13 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general  
14 fund to the department of community development for the purposes of  
15 section 3 of this act.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** The sum of one million dollars, or as  
17 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium  
18 ending June 30, 1993, from the general fund to the department of social  
19 and health services for the purposes of section 5 of this act.