

6446

Sponsor(s): Senators Kohl-Welles, Benton, Hargrove and Shin

Brief Description: Clarifying the duty of members of the clergy to report abuse or neglect.

SB 6446 - DIGEST

Declares that the reporting requirement of this act shall apply to a member of the clergy only when he or she becomes aware of an allegation of abuse or neglect that is made regarding another member of the clergy over whom the member of the clergy regularly exercises supervisory authority in his or her capacity as a member of the administrative or managerial structure of the religious institution.

Provides that no member of the clergy shall be required to report allegations of abuse or neglect when he or she obtains the information solely as a result of a confession made pursuant to the clergy-penitent privilege as provided in RCW 5.60.060, so long as the member of the clergy has the authority to hear such confession under the regular tenets of his or her religious institution.