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**Early Learning & Children's  
Services Committee**

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**HB 1927**

**Brief Description:** Concerning foster care benefits.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Walsh, Haler, Pettigrew, Hunt, Armstrong, Dunshee, Upthegrove, Chase, Blake, Williams, Green, Sells, Appleton, Conway, Moeller, Darneille, Simpson, Pedersen, Takko, Kenney, Hasegawa, Schual-Berke and Ormsby.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requires written notice be provided prior to the denial, reduction, or termination of foster care benefits.
- Requires an administrative fair hearing if requested before reductions in foster care benefits are implemented.

**Hearing Date:** 2/15/07

**Staff:** Sydney Forrester (786-7120).

**Background:**

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) licenses about 6,000 foster homes statewide to provide for the care of children taken into the custody of the DSHS as a result of child abuse or neglect. Foster parents must have a regular source of income to support their families, but financial assistance is provided to help with the costs of the foster child's needs. Monthly reimbursement amounts are provided based on the child's age and needs, with reimbursement rates range between about \$375 and \$800 dollars per child. As a child's age and/or needs change, the DSHS may adjust these amounts.

**Summary of Bill:**

The DSHS must provide written notice to a child, the child's representative, or care giver before foster care benefits are denied, reduced, or terminated. If the child, child's representative or care

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giver request, an administrative hearing must be granted before reduction are eliminated. Hearings shall be before an administrative law judge and structured the same as appeal hearings for Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 6, 2007.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.