

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5585

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Health & Long-Term Care, February 26, 2007

Title: An act relating to parent and child health services provided by the department of health.

Brief Description: Concerning parent and child health services provided by the department of health.

Sponsors: Senators Tom, Keiser, Weinstein, Oemig, Kohl-Welles, Marr, Fraser, Prentice and Franklin.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 2/15/07, 2/26/07 [DPS, w/oRec].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5585 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Keiser, Chair; Franklin, Vice Chair; Fairley, Kastama, Kohl-Welles and Marr.

Minority Report: That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senators Pflug, Ranking Minority Member and Carrell.

Staff: Rhoda Donkin (786-7465)

Background: Title X is a federal program solely designed to provide family planning and reproductive health care. Federal grants for this program are administered through the Department of Health's Family Planning and Reproductive Health Section.

Federal guidelines allow for flexibility in administering Title X funds, but set a minimum standard of care for those individuals who want reproductive health care. These include: that people must be given a choice of contraceptive methods without coercion toward any one method; that services be provided in the context of related reproductive health care; that recipients are charged fees based on their income and ability to pay; and that no Title X funds are used to pay for abortions.

The Department administers these federal funds through 19 clinics statewide, of which ten are local health jurisdictions, four are Planned Parenthood programs, and five are non-profit clinics. In 2006, the department contracted with planned agencies serving 114,443 clients statewide. Of those, half were below 100 percent of the federal poverty level.

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.

Summary of Bill: Within funds appropriated for this purpose, the department shall provide family planning services to men and women not otherwise eligible for these services under current public programs.

Family planning services is defined as the provision of effective risk reduction education and counseling, preventive medical exams and testing, screening, and the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, cancer screening, contraceptive supplies and devices, and sterilization counseling and services.

EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY RECOMMENDED SUBSTITUTE AS PASSED COMMITTEE (Health & Long-Term Care): The federal poverty level for public family planning services is changed from 200 to 250 percent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 9, 2007.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: The bill codifies what the Department of Health is currently doing in family planning contracts across the state. As the definition of family planning is eroding at the federal level, we are making the statement that it includes more than simply preventing pregnancy and is a priority in Washington State. Family planning includes preventing the types of diseases that impact healthy families, which includes sexually transmitted diseases.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Maria Wood, Public Health Seattle/King County; Amy Luftig, Planned Parenthood Network of Washington; Sandy Huston, Family Planning of Clallam County; Vicki Kirkpatrick, Washington Association of Local Public Health Officials.