

Amendments to Senate Bill No. 385
1st Reading Copy

Requested by Senator John Esp

For the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee

Prepared by Susan Byorth Fox
February 14, 2005 (9:18am)

1. Page 8.

Following: line 13

Insert: "NEW SECTION. Section 6. Limits on workload -- priorities. (1) It is the intent of the legislature that the mental health and family ombudsman dedicate no more than one-half of a full-time equivalent employee to the duties related to the child protective services system. The priority for assisting children, immediate and extended family members and child custodians with regard to allegations of harm by the state are in the following order:

(a) to help families reach resolution using the department of public health and human services grievance procedure;

(b) based on the types of allegations received, recommending systemic changes or activities to improve the functioning of agencies charged with the prevention, identification, and treatment of child abuse and neglect;

(c) issue reports to the Governor and the Legislature concerning the recommendations in (1)(b); and

(d) only after the person alleging harm has used the department grievance procedure without satisfactory resolution, investigating allegations.

(2) If it is necessary to further prioritize duties to satisfy the limits on work load, the mental health and family ombudsman shall:

(a) develop a policy to prioritize the allegations to be investigated in (1)(d); and

(b) bring that fact to the attention of the legislative children, families, health, and human services interim committee for monitoring and analysis."

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