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HOUSE BILL 1986

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State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Leonard, Cooper, Prentice, Ferguson, Sprenkle, Winsley, Appelwick, Braddock, Moyer, Locke, Paris, R. King, Wang, Valle, Ludwig, Kremen, Jacobsen, Dellwo, Holland, Inslee, H. Myers, Van Luven, O'Brien, Spanel, Mitchell, Brekke and Rasmussen.

Read first time February 18, 1991. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to protection and advocacy of the rights of  
2 developmentally disabled persons; and adding a new section to chapter  
3 71A.10 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 71A.10 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The governor shall designate an agency to implement a program  
8 for the protection and advocacy of the rights of persons with  
9 developmental disabilities pursuant to the developmentally disabled  
10 assistance and bill of rights act, 89 Stat. 486; 42 U.S.C. Secs. 6000-  
11 6083 (1975), (as amended). The designated agency shall have the  
12 authority to pursue legal, administrative, and other appropriate  
13 remedies to protect the rights of the developmentally disabled and to  
14 investigate allegations of abuse and neglect. The designated agency  
15 shall be independent of any state agency that provides treatment or

1 services other than advocacy services to persons with developmental  
2 disabilities.

3 (2) The agency designated under subsection (1) of this section  
4 shall implement a program for the protection and advocacy of the rights  
5 of mentally ill persons pursuant to the protection and advocacy for  
6 mentally ill individuals act of 1986, 100 Stat. 478; 42 U.S.C. Secs.  
7 10801-10851 (1986), (as amended). The designated agency shall have the  
8 authority to pursue legal, administrative, and other appropriate  
9 remedies to protect the rights of mentally ill persons and to  
10 investigate allegations of abuse or neglect of mentally ill persons.  
11 The designated agency shall be independent of any state agency that  
12 provides treatment or services other than advocacy services to mentally  
13 ill persons.

14 (3) The governor shall designate an appropriate state official to  
15 serve as liaison between the agency designated to implement the  
16 protection and advocacy programs and the state departments and agencies  
17 that provide services to persons with developmental disabilities and  
18 mentally ill persons.