

# **HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS**

## **HB 1518**

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**Title:** *An act relating to payment to foster parents during investigations; and adding a new section to chapter 74.13 RCW.*

**Brief Description:** *Regarding payment to foster parents during investigations.*

**Sponsors:** *Representatives Boldt, Mielke and Dunn.*

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### **HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES**

**Meeting Date:** *February 11, 1999.*

**Bill Analysis Prepared by:** *Dave Knutson (786-7146).*

**Background:** When an allegation of child abuse or neglect is made by a foster child against a foster parent, the Department of Social and Health Services removes the child from the home and conducts an investigation. If the foster child is removed from the home the foster care payments to the foster parents are halted until the investigation is complete. If the allegation is unfounded the foster parent was no way to recoup the foster care payments that were withheld.

**Summary of Bill:** When the Department of Social and Health Services conducts a child abuse or neglect investigation of a therapeutic or treatment foster home and the foster child is removed from the home, the foster care payment will continue until the Department determines if the allegation is founded or criminal charges are filed.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on February 2, 1999.

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