

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Kahl
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Walker

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 21 – 0 – 1

House

Yeas: Buckley, C. Edwards, D. Edwards, Galizio, Garrard, Gilman, Jenson, Kotek, Nathanson, Shields, G. Smith

Nays:

Exc: Richardson

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Carter, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Verger, Walker, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc:

Prepared By: Doug Wilson, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 16, 2009

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Adds audiologists, speech language pathologists, psychologists, and providers of adult foster care or their employees to list of those who must report elderly abuse. Psychiatrists and psychologists are exempt from reporting requirements if they receive the information under patient privilege. Adds osteopathic physicians, physician assistants, naturopathic physician, podiatric physician, surgeon, nurse practitioner, nurse's aide, physical, speech or occupational therapist, audiologist, speech language pathologist, home health aide and employee of an in-home health service to list of those who must report child abuse.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Training for mandatory reporters
- Exemptions of other professionals who provide counseling

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Currently, any public or private official having reasonable cause to believe that any person 65 years of age or older or a person under the age of 18 with whom the official comes in contact, while acting in his or her official capacity, had been abused must report the abuse to the Department of Human Services (DHS) or a law enforcement agency within the county where the abuse took place. "Public or private official" is defined to include physicians, chiropractors, licensed nurses and nurse's aids, employees of DHS, peace officers, clergy, and firefighters among others.