

CHAPTER 145

[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 4481]

ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF CHILDREN OR DEPENDENT ADULTS—
REPORTING—DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES—
INFORMATION EXCHANGE AUTHORITY

AN ACT Relating to reporting of abuse or neglect; amending RCW 26.44.030; and prescribing penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Sec. 1. Section 3, chapter 13, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 2, chapter 259, Laws of 1985 and RCW 26.44.030 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) When any practitioner, professional school personnel, registered or licensed nurse, social worker, psychologist, pharmacist, or employee of the department has reasonable cause to believe that a child or adult dependent person has suffered abuse or neglect, he shall report such incident, or cause a report to be made, to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department as provided in RCW 26.44.040. The report shall be made at the first opportunity, but in no case longer than forty-eight hours after there is reasonable cause to believe that the child or adult has suffered abuse or neglect.

(2) Any other person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child or adult dependent person has suffered abuse or neglect may report such incident to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department of social and health services as provided in RCW 26.44.040.

(3) The department, upon receiving a report of an incident of abuse or neglect pursuant to this chapter, involving a child or adult dependent person who has died or has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon him other than by accidental means or who has been subjected to sexual abuse, shall report such incident in writing to the proper law enforcement agency.

(4) Any law enforcement agency receiving a report of an incident of abuse or neglect pursuant to this chapter, involving a child or adult dependent person who has died or has had physical injury or injuries inflicted upon him other than by accidental means, or who has been subjected to sexual abuse, shall report such incident in writing as provided in RCW 26.44.040 to the proper county prosecutor or city attorney for appropriate action whenever the law enforcement agency's investigation reveals that a crime may have been committed. The law enforcement agency shall also notify the department of all reports received and the law enforcement agency's disposition of them.

(5) Any county prosecutor or city attorney receiving a report under subsection (4) of this section shall notify the victim, any persons the victim

requests, and the local office of the department, of the decision to charge or decline to charge a crime, within five days of making the decision.

(6) The department may conduct ongoing case planning and consultation with those persons or agencies required to report under this section and with designated representatives of Washington Indian tribes if the client information exchanged is pertinent to cases currently receiving child protective services or department case services for the developmentally disabled. Upon request, the department shall conduct such planning and consultation with those persons required to report under this section if the department determines it is in the best interests of the child or developmentally disabled person. Information considered privileged by statute and not directly related to reports required by this section shall not be divulged without a valid written waiver of the privilege.

(7) Persons or agencies exchanging information under subsection (6) of this section shall not further disseminate or release the information except as authorized by state or federal statute. Violation of this subsection is a misdemeanor.

Passed the Senate March 8, 1986.

Passed the House March 6, 1986.

Approved by the Governor March 31, 1986.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 31, 1986.

CHAPTER 146

[Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 4658]

HANDICAPPED PERSONS—ALTERNATIVES TO STATE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

AN ACT Relating to alternatives to state residential schools; and amending RCW 72.33.125.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Sec. 1. Section 2, chapter 246, Laws of 1975 1st ex. sess. as last amended by section 1, chapter 60, Laws of 1983 and RCW 72.33.125 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) In order to provide ongoing points of contact with the handicapped individual and his family so that they may have a place of entry for state services and return to the community as the need may appear; to provide a link between those individuals and services of the community and state operated services so that the individuals with handicapping conditions and their families may have access to the facilities best suited to them throughout the life of the individual; to offer viable alternatives to state residential school admission; and to encourage the placement of persons from state residential schools, the secretary of social and health services or his designee, pursuant to rules and regulations of the department, shall receive applications of persons for care, treatment, hospitalization, support, training,