

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Early Intervention Services for Chemically Dependent Pregnant Women

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This bill amends the early intervention statute under the commitment law to provide for court-ordered early intervention services if a court finds that a pregnant woman is a chemically dependent person. This would include a woman who during the pregnancy has engaged in excessive use for non-medical purposes of controlled substances or alcohol or inhalants, if that use will pose substantial risk of damage to the brain or physical development of the fetus.

Under the current commitment law, the definition of "chemically dependent person" for purposes of a commitment petition applies to a pregnant woman who has engaged in the use of specified controlled substances, but does not include all controlled substances or alcohol. It also does not require a finding that use of the substance will pose a substantial risk of damage to the brain or physical development of the fetus.