

HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

SSB 5132

Title: An act relating to increasing public and parental access to information regarding child care service.

Brief Description: Improving child care services.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Long, Hargrove, Brown, Patterson, McAuliffe and Costa)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Meeting Date: February 24, 2000.

Bill Analysis Prepared by: Deborah Frazier (786-7152).

Background: There is no single point of contact for persons seeking information about day care providers.

Summary of Bill: The striking amendment requires the department to establish a toll-free number and on-line site for persons seeking information about day care providers. The department is instructed to:

- staff the telephone line during business hours;
- provide the capability for callers to leave messages during non-business hours; and,
- publish the number in printed and electronic media.

Callers may obtain the following information from the toll-free number and on-line site:

- whether the provider is licensed;
- whether the provider is in good standing regarding licensing requirements;
- instructions on how to report alleged abuse and neglect in a day care; and,
- instructions on how to report health, safety and welfare concerns in a day care

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

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

