

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5322

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Human Services & Corrections, February 15, 2001

**Title:** An act relating to providing child day-care licensing information to the public through a toll-free number.

**Brief Description:** Providing child day-care licensing information to the public through a toll-free number.

**Sponsors:** Senators Kohl-Welles, Long, Hargrove, Costa, Gardner and Oke.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Human Services & Corrections: 2/1/01, 2/15/01 [DPS-WM].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5322 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Hargrove, Chair; Costa, Vice Chair; Carlson, Franklin, Hewitt, Kastama, Kohl-Welles, Long and Stevens.

**Staff:** Edith Rice (786-7444)

**Background:** Parents and consumers of child care services need easily accessible, up-to-date and accurate information about child care providers.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** The Legislature recognizes that parents and consumers using child care services need improved access to information about providers. The Department of Social and Health Services must establish and maintain a toll-free telephone number and public web site for communication of information regarding child care providers. This information includes:

- whether a provider is licensed;
- whether a provider is in good standing;
- general nature of enforcement action taken;
- how to report alleged licensing violations;
- how to report alleged abuse or neglect;
- how to report health, safety and welfare concerns in a daycare;
- how to contact the Office of the Family and Children's Ombudsman;
- other referral information.

**Substitute Bill Compared to Original Bill:** The original bill was not considered.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 18, 2001.

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

**Testimony For:** Parents and consumers need up to date, accurate information about childcare providers.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Lonnie Johns-Brown, Washington Assn. of Educators for Young Children (pro); Nancy Zahn, Rachel Langer, Children's Administration (pro); Cecile Callison, Dept. of Social and Health Services (pro); Kris Mohn, Parents for Safe Daycare (pro); Susan Kavanaugh, WA State Resource and Referral (pro); Margie Korn, Parents for Safe Children (pro).