
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5322

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Long, Hargrove, Costa, Gardner and Oke)

READ FIRST TIME 02/16/01.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing child day-care licensing information
2 to the public through a toll-free number; and adding new sections to
3 chapter 74.15 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.15 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 The legislature finds that consumers of child day-care centers and
8 family day-care providers have a legitimate interest in receiving
9 timely information about the providers of day-care services to enable
10 them to make meaningful choices regarding facilities and the people who
11 provide care for their children.

12 The legislature further finds that parents whose children are
13 consumers of day-care services are often unaware of the quality of the
14 facility or home they have chosen. This lack of knowledge is due, in
15 part, to the inability of parents to obtain such information. The
16 legislature intends to use the state's improved ability to collect and
17 manage information about day-care service providers by requiring that
18 all relevant licensing and enforcement action information be available

1 to parents and other appropriate persons as provided in section 2 of
2 this act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.15 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The department shall establish and maintain a toll-free
6 telephone number, and an electronic on-line system for communication of
7 information regarding child day-care centers and family day-care
8 providers. This number shall be available during standard business
9 hours and during nonbusiness hours callers shall be able to leave
10 messages. The number shall be published in reasonably available
11 printed and electronic media. The number shall be easily identifiable
12 as a number for communication of information as set forth in this
13 section.

14 (2) All licensed child day-care centers and family day-care
15 providers shall post in a place and manner clearly visible to patrons
16 and visitors the department's toll-free telephone number. Parents or
17 guardians must be given the department's toll-free telephone number by
18 employees or operators of the child day-care centers and family day-
19 care providers.

20 (3) For the purposes of this section, "communication of
21 information" means callers may: (a) Determine whether a day care is
22 licensed; (b) determine whether a day care is in good standing
23 regarding licensing requirements; (c) determine the general nature of
24 enforcement against the providers; (d) obtain information on how to
25 report suspected or observed noncompliance with licensing requirements;
26 (e) obtain information on how to report alleged abuse or neglect in a
27 day care; (f) obtain information on how to report health, safety, and
28 welfare concerns in a day care; (g) receive follow-up assistance,
29 including information on the office of the family and children's
30 ombudsman; and (h) receive referral information on other agencies or
31 entities that may be of further assistance to the caller.

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