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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2511**

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**State of Washington**

**64th Legislature**

**2016 Regular Session**

**By** House Early Learning & Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Pike, Scott, Vick, Shea, Walsh, and Young)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/16.

1       AN ACT Relating to child care center licensing requirements;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 43.215 RCW; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.**   (1) The legislature recognizes that the  
6 high cost of quality child care places a heavy burden on Washington's  
7 poorest families. The legislature further acknowledges the  
8 administrative burden unnecessary regulations place on child care  
9 providers and the families they serve. The legislature finds that  
10 under current rule, child care providers may not serve five year olds  
11 attending school in the same group as five year olds not attending  
12 school.

13       (2) The legislature intends to allow child care centers to serve  
14 kindergartners in a mixed group or classroom without having to go  
15 through a waiver process. The legislature further intends to  
16 streamline the delivery of services to children while continuing to  
17 protect their safety and well-being.

18       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.**   A new section is added to chapter 43.215  
19 RCW to read as follows:

1           (1) Licensed child care centers may serve children enrolled in  
2 kindergarten in a mixed group or classroom, excluding classrooms  
3 which serve infants not walking independently.

4           (2) By November 1, 2016, the department shall amend rules  
5 necessary to implement this section.

6           (3) This section does not remove or change staff-to-child ratio  
7 requirements.

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