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SENATE BILL 6230

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl, Fairley and Thibaudeau

Read first time 01/09/96. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to out-of-home care; amending RCW 74.13.090; adding  
2 new sections to chapter 74.15 RCW; creating a new section; and  
3 providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature by this  
6 act to increase the department's efforts in informing the public and  
7 interested parties about the department's actions regarding licensees  
8 of out-of-home care. It is also the intent to provide consumers of  
9 child care services information of a significant nature to assist them  
10 in making rational choices regarding the people who care for their  
11 children.

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

14 (1) In the event of a denial of a license, or a suspension,  
15 revocation, or nonrenewal, the secretary shall within forty-eight  
16 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, report the event to:

17 (a) The person or agency who brought to the secretary's attention  
18 information that resulted in the initiation of the case;

1 (b) Appropriate organizations, public or private, that serve the  
2 professions;

3 (c) The public, through press releases to appropriate local news  
4 media and the major news wire services; and

5 (d) Counterpart licensing departments in other states, or  
6 associations of state licensing departments.

7 (2) If the license holder or applicant is later found to have not  
8 committed acts or conduct justifying the department's action, the  
9 secretary shall forthwith prepare a notice of public exoneration of the  
10 licensee or applicant.

11 (3) In all cases the secretary shall retain all records relating to  
12 licensing actions as permanent records.

13 (4) This section shall not be construed to require the reporting of  
14 any information that is exempt from public disclosure under chapter  
15 42.17 RCW.

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

18 (1) The department shall compile quarterly reports summarizing all  
19 complaints alleging serious issues affecting the health or safety of  
20 children in the care of family day-care providers and day-care centers.  
21 The reports shall be provided to the relevant committees of the  
22 legislature, the child care coordinating committee, local child care  
23 resource and referral agencies, and upon request to the public.

24 (2) The reports shall contain: (a) The reporting date of the  
25 incidents; (b) the nature and severity of the complaint; (c) the action  
26 taken by the department; and (d) the final resolution of the complaint.  
27 If a complaint has not been resolved during the reporting period, that  
28 fact shall be noted and shall be followed up in succeeding reports.

29 (3) Upon request, the department shall provide all relevant  
30 information regarding individual complaints alleging serious issues  
31 affecting the health or safety of children in the care of family day-  
32 care providers and day-care centers. The department shall respond to  
33 the inquiries regardless of whether the complaint is still pending or  
34 the investigation has been closed.

35 (4) The department shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this  
36 section.

1       **Sec. 4.** RCW 74.13.090 and 1995 c 399 s 204 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) There is established a child care coordinating committee to  
4 provide coordination and communication between state agencies  
5 responsible for child care and early childhood education services. The  
6 child care coordinating committee shall be composed of not less than  
7 seventeen nor more than thirty-three members who shall include:

8       (a) One representative each from the department of social and  
9 health services, the department of community, trade, and economic  
10 development, the office of the superintendent of public instruction,  
11 and any other agency having responsibility for regulation, provision,  
12 or funding of child care services in the state;

13       (b) One representative from the department of labor and industries;

14       (c) One representative from the department of revenue;

15       (d) One representative from the employment security department;

16       (e) One representative from the department of personnel;

17       (f) One representative from the department of health;

18       (g) At least one representative of family home child care providers  
19 and one representative of center care providers;

20       (h) At least one representative of early childhood development  
21 experts;

22       (i) At least one representative of school districts and teachers  
23 involved in the provision of child care and preschool programs;

24       (j) At least one parent education specialist;

25       (k) At least one representative of resource and referral programs;

26       (l) One pediatric or other health professional;

27       (m) At least one representative of college or university child care  
28 providers;

29       (n) At least one representative of a citizen group concerned with  
30 child care;

31       (o) At least one representative of a labor organization;

32       (p) At least one representative of a head start - early childhood  
33 education assistance program agency;

34       (q) At least one employer who provides child care assistance to  
35 employees;

36       (r) Parents of children receiving, or in need of, child care, half  
37 of whom shall be parents needing or receiving subsidized child care and  
38 half of whom shall be parents who are able to pay for child care.

1 The named state agencies shall select their representative to the  
2 child care coordinating committee. The department of social and health  
3 services shall select the remaining members, considering  
4 recommendations from lists submitted by professional associations and  
5 other interest groups until such time as the committee adopts a member  
6 selection process. The department shall use any federal funds which  
7 may become available to accomplish the purposes of RCW 74.13.085  
8 through 74.13.095.

9 The committee shall elect officers from among its membership and  
10 shall adopt policies and procedures specifying the lengths of terms,  
11 methods for filling vacancies, and other matters necessary to the  
12 ongoing functioning of the committee. The secretary of social and  
13 health services shall appoint a temporary chair until the committee has  
14 adopted policies and elected a chair accordingly. Child care  
15 coordinating committee members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses  
16 as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

17 (2) To the extent possible within available funds, the child care  
18 coordinating committee shall:

19 (a) Serve as an advisory coordinator for all state agencies  
20 responsible for early childhood or child care programs for the purpose  
21 of improving communication and interagency coordination;

22 (b) Annually review state programs and make recommendations to the  
23 agencies and the legislature which will maximize funding and promote  
24 furtherance of the policies set forth in RCW 74.13.085. Reports shall  
25 be provided to all appropriate committees of the legislature by  
26 December 1 of each year. At a minimum the committee shall:

27 (i) Review and propose changes to the child care subsidy system  
28 (~~in its December 1989 report~~);

29 (ii) Review alternative models for child care service systems, in  
30 the context of the policies set forth in RCW 74.13.085, and recommend  
31 to the legislature a new child care service structure; and

32 (iii) Review options and make recommendations on the feasibility of  
33 establishing an allocation for day care facilities when constructing  
34 state buildings;

35 (c) Review department of social and health services administration  
36 of the child care expansion grant program described in RCW 74.13.095;

37 (d) Review rules regarding child care facilities and services for  
38 the purpose of identifying those which unnecessarily obstruct the  
39 availability and affordability of child care in the state;

1 (e) Advise and assist the office of child care policy in  
2 implementing his or her duties under RCW 74.13.0903;

3 (f) Perform other functions to improve the quantity and quality of  
4 child care in the state, including compliance with existing and future  
5 prerequisites for federal funding; (~~and~~)

6 (g) Advise and assist the department of personnel in its  
7 responsibility for establishing policies and procedures that provide  
8 for the development of quality child care programs for state employees;  
9 and

10 (h) Review the department's quarterly reports, required under  
11 section 3 of this act, to ensure the department's compliance with the  
12 intent of section 3 of this act. The committee shall make  
13 recommendations to the legislature, as necessary, to improve the flow  
14 of information to the public.

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. This act shall take effect January 1, 1997.

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