

SB 5621 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Children & Family Services

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the early
4 years of a child's life are a time of enormous growth. The legislature
5 further finds that when parents choose to provide early educational
6 opportunities for their children in public or private preschools,
7 parents should have the tools to help find high-quality programs for
8 their children that will help their students be ready to go to school.

9 (2) The legislature intends to establish a voluntary certification
10 process for the child development and educational program offerings of
11 public and nonpublic preschool programs. The purpose of the voluntary
12 certification is to give parents and other consumers of preschool
13 programs the ability to evaluate the educational quality of the
14 preschool program including the program's ability to prepare the child
15 for kindergarten.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The Washington early learning council,
17 created in Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1152, shall
18 develop standards and procedures for the voluntary certification of
19 public and nonpublic preschool child development and educational
20 programs. The standards at a minimum should outline essential
21 components, including, but not limited to, the following categories:
22 School-home relationships; class size and teacher-student ratios;
23 standards for teachers and staff; specification of pedagogical goals,
24 content, and methods, consistent with early learning development
25 benchmarks developed in Washington; and methods for monitoring quality.
26 The council shall also develop strategies to encourage preschool
27 programs to apply for certification.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The Washington early learning council,
2 created in Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1152, shall make
3 recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the
4 legislature concerning implementation of the standards and procedures
5 for the voluntary certification, under section 2 of this act, of public
6 and nonpublic preschool child development and educational programs,
7 which shall include the following:

8 (1) Identification of an appropriate state agency to implement the
9 standards and procedures for voluntary certification;

10 (2) A mechanism for making the list of certified preschool programs
11 widely available to the public; and

12 (3) A mechanism for any program that meets the definition of
13 nursery school or kindergarten under RCW 74.15.020(2)(g) and is not
14 required to be licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW to annually file its
15 business name, name of the business owner, address, and phone number
16 with the state."

17 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Charges the Washington Early Learning Council (Council),
which is created in Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill No. 1152,
rather than the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with developing
standards and procedures for the voluntary certification of public and
nonpublic preschool child development and educational programs, as well
as developing strategies to encourage preschool programs to apply for
certification.

Requires the Council to make recommendations to the Governor and
the appropriate committees of the Legislature concerning implementation
of the developed standards and procedures for the voluntary
certification of public and nonpublic preschool child development and
educational programs, which must include the following:

(1) Identification of an appropriate state agency to implement the
standards and procedures for voluntary certification;

(2) A mechanism for making the list of certified preschool programs
widely available to the public; and

(3) A mechanism for any program that meets the definition of
nursery school or kindergarten under RCW 74.15.020(2)(g) and is not
required to be licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW to annually file its
business name, name of the business owner, address, and phone number
with the state.

--- END ---