
SENATE BILL 6533

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senators Billig, Padden, Zeiger, Kuderer, and Short

Read first time 01/23/18. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to child care center licensing standards
2 regarding educational requirements; amending RCW 43.215.201 and
3 43.216.255; providing an effective date; and providing an expiration
4 date.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.215.201 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 7 s 3 are each
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (1) (~~No later than November 1, 2016,~~) The department shall
9 implement, subject to subsections (2) and (3) of this section, a
10 single set of licensing standards for child care and the early
11 childhood education and assistance program. The department shall
12 produce the single set of licensing standards within the department's
13 available appropriations. The new licensing standards must:

14 (a) Provide minimum health and safety standards for child care
15 and preschool programs;

16 (b) Rely on the standards established in the early achievers
17 program to address quality issues in participating early childhood
18 programs;

19 (c) Take into account the separate needs of family care providers
20 and child care centers; and

21 (d) Promote the continued safety of child care settings.

1 (2) Pursuant to RCW 34.05.310(2)(a), the department shall engage
2 in negotiated rule making with entities representing or operating
3 child care centers and entities representing family home child care
4 providers before adopting or defining equivalencies to educational
5 requirements that affect the following child care center employees:

6 (a) Directors;

7 (b) Assistant directors;

8 (c) Supervisors;

9 (d) Lead teachers;

10 (e) Assistant teachers;

11 (f) Instructional aides; and

12 (g) Aides.

13 (3) Child care center employees who have met the education
14 requirements set forth in chapter 170-295 WAC as of January 1, 2018,
15 are exempt from any new education requirements established by the
16 department.

17 (4) Private schools that operate early learning programs and do
18 not receive state subsidy payments shall be subject only to the
19 minimum health and safety standards in subsection (1)(a) of this
20 section and the requirements necessary to assure a sufficient early
21 childhood education to meet usual requirements needed for transition
22 into elementary school. The state, and any agency thereof, shall not
23 restrict or dictate any specific educational or other programs for
24 early learning programs operated by private schools except for
25 programs that receive state subsidy payments.

26 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.216.255 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 7 s 3 are each
27 amended to read as follows:

28 (1) ~~((No later than November 1, 2016,))~~ The department shall
29 implement, subject to subsection (2) of this section, a single set of
30 licensing standards for child care and the early childhood education
31 and assistance program. The department shall produce the single set
32 of licensing standards within the department's available
33 appropriations. The new licensing standards must:

34 (a) Provide minimum health and safety standards for child care
35 and preschool programs;

36 (b) Rely on the standards established in the early achievers
37 program to address quality issues in participating early childhood
38 programs;

1 (c) Take into account the separate needs of family care providers
2 and child care centers; and

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24 childhood education to meet usual requirements needed for transition
25 into elementary school. The state, and any agency thereof, shall not
26 restrict or dictate any specific educational or other programs for
27 early learning programs operated by private schools except for
28 programs that receive state subsidy payments.

29 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. Section 1 of this act expires July 1,
30 2018.

31 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Section 2 of this act takes effect July 1,
32 2018.

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