

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5509

As of February 3, 2025

Title: An act relating to the siting of child care centers.

Brief Description: Concerning the siting of child care centers.

Sponsors: Senators Alvarado, Salomon, Bateman, Conway, Nobles, Saldaña, Trudeau, Valdez and Wilson, C..

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Local Government: 2/06/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires cities, towns, and code cities to allow childcare centers as outright permitted uses in all zones except industrial zones.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Staff: Karen Epps (786-7424)

Background: The Growth Management Act (GMA) is the comprehensive land use planning framework for counties and cities in Washington. The GMA establishes land use designation and environmental protection requirements for all Washington counties and cities. The GMA also establishes a significantly wider array of planning duties for 28 counties, and the cities within those counties, that are obligated to satisfy all planning requirements of the GMA.

The GMA directs fully planning jurisdictions to adopt internally consistent comprehensive land-use plans. Comprehensive plans are implemented through locally adopted development regulations, and both the plans and the local regulations are subject to review and revision requirements prescribed in the GMA. Comprehensive plans must contain certain required elements, including a transportation element, a land use element, and a capital facilities plan

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element, among others.

Development regulations are controls placed on development or land use activities by a county or city, including zoning ordinances, critical areas ordinances, planned unit development ordinances, subdivision ordinances, and binding site plan ordinances. A county or city adopts zoning ordinances to designate land in various zones for residential, commercial, and industrial purposes and to protect critical areas and other sensitive areas within the county or city.

Summary of Bill: Cities, towns, and code cities are required to allow childcare centers as outright permitted uses in all zones except industrial zones. Cities and code cities may impose reasonable restrictions on the permit, including pickup and drop-off areas. Cities and code cities must incorporate this requirement by adopting or amending through ordinance, and incorporate into their development regulations, no later than one year after the next comprehensive plan update, or within one year of the bill's effective date.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 31, 2025.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.