
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5509

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senate Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Alvarado, Salomon, Bateman, Conway, Nobles, Saldaña, Trudeau, Valdez, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/14/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to the siting of child care centers; adding a new
2 section to chapter 35.21 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter
3 35A.21 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35.21
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Cities and towns must allow child care centers, and the
8 conversion of existing buildings for use as child care centers, as an
9 outright permitted use in all zones except industrial zones, light
10 industrial zones, and open space zones.

11 (2) Cities may impose reasonable restrictions on the permit,
12 including pickup and drop-off areas.

13 (3) Cities that plan under the growth management act and that are
14 required to submit their next comprehensive plan update in 2027
15 pursuant to RCW 36.70A.130 must adopt or amend by ordinance, and
16 incorporate into their development regulations, zoning regulations,
17 and other official controls, the requirements of this section in
18 their next comprehensive plan update. All other cities must implement
19 the requirements of this section within two years of the effective
20 date of this section.

1 (4) Nothing in this section limits a city from allowing child
2 care centers in other zones, including industrial zones or light
3 industrial zones.

4 (5) For the purposes of this section, "child care centers" has
5 the same meaning as in RCW 43.216.010.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35A.21
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Code cities and towns must allow child care centers, and the
9 conversion of existing buildings for use as child care centers, as an
10 outright permitted use in all zones except industrial zones, light
11 industrial zones, and open space zones.

12 (2) Code cities may impose reasonable restrictions on the permit,
13 including pickup and drop-off areas.

14 (3) Code cities that plan under the growth management act and
15 that are required to submit their next comprehensive plan update in
16 2027 pursuant to RCW 36.70A.130 must adopt or amend by ordinance, and
17 incorporate into their development regulations, zoning regulations,
18 and other official controls, the requirements of this section in
19 their next comprehensive plan update. All other code cities must
20 implement the requirements of this section within two years of the
21 effective date of this section.

22 (4) Nothing in this section limits a code city from allowing
23 child care centers in other zones, including industrial zones or
24 light industrial zones.

25 (5) For the purposes of this section, "child care centers" has
26 the same meaning as in RCW 43.216.010.

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