
SENATE BILL 6557

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl, Long, Brown, Patterson, Thibaudeau, Franklin, Rasmussen and Winsley

Read first time 01/21/98. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to reporting and obtaining information related to
2 licensed child day-care centers and family day-care providers through
3 a toll-free telephone number; and adding a new section to chapter 74.15
4 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 74.15 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) The department shall establish and maintain a toll-free
9 telephone number for communication of information regarding licensed
10 child day-care centers and family day-care providers.

11 (2) All licensed child day-care centers and family day-care
12 providers shall post in a place and manner clearly visible to patrons
13 and visitors the department's toll-free telephone number. Parents or
14 guardians must be given the department's toll-free telephone number.

15 (3)(a) The department shall make a preliminary review of the
16 complaint and investigate any complaint within its authority unless the
17 department determines that: (i) The complaint is intended to willfully
18 harass a licensee or employee of a licensee; or (ii) there is no

1 reasonable basis for investigation; or (iii) corrective action has been
2 taken as determined by the department.

3 (b) The department shall refer complaints to the appropriate state
4 agencies, law enforcement agencies, the attorney general, or other
5 entities if the department lacks authority to investigate or if its
6 investigation reveals that a follow-up referral to one or more of these
7 entities is appropriate.

8 (4) For the purposes of this section, "communication of
9 information" means callers may: (a) Find out if a day care is
10 licensed; (b) find out if the day care is in good standing regarding
11 the requirements of its license; (c) report suspected or observed
12 noncompliance with licensing requirements; (d) report abuse or neglect;
13 (e) report concerns regarding the safety and well-being of a child or
14 children; and (f) obtain referral information to an agency or entity
15 that may be of further assistance to the caller.

--- END ---