
SENATE BILL 6245

State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Senators Costa, Long, Brown, Gardner and Heavey

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to providing child day-care licensing information
2 to the public through a toll-free number; adding new sections to
3 chapter 74.15 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

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

7 The legislature finds that consumers of child day-care centers and
8 family day-care providers have a legitimate interest in receiving
9 timely information about the providers of day-care services to enable
10 them to make meaningful choices regarding facilities and the people who
11 provide care for their children.

12 The legislature further finds that parents whose children are
13 consumers of day-care services are often unaware of the quality of the
14 facility or home they have chosen. This lack of knowledge is due, in
15 part, to the inability of parents to obtain such information. The
16 legislature intends to use the state's improved ability to collect and
17 manage information about day-care service providers by requiring that
18 all relevant licensing and enforcement action information be available

1 to parents and other appropriate persons as provided in section 2 of
2 this act.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.15 RCW
4 to read as follows:

5 (1) The department shall establish and maintain a toll-free
6 telephone number for the communication of information to the public
7 regarding child day-care centers and family day-care providers.

8 (2) The telephone number must be published in reasonably available
9 printed and electronic media and must be easily identifiable as a
10 number by which this information can be obtained. All licensed day-
11 care providers shall post the telephone number in a place and manner
12 clearly visible to consumers and the general public. If requested, a
13 day-care provider and the department shall provide the requestor with
14 the toll-free number.

15 (3) For purposes of this section, "communication of information"
16 means callers may obtain the following information: (a) Whether a day-
17 care center or family day-care provider is licensed; (b) whether a day-
18 care center or family day-care provider is in good standing regarding
19 licensing requirements; (c) whether a day-care center or family day-
20 care provider is currently being investigated for either child abuse or
21 neglect allegations or other licensing violations; (d) whether a day-
22 care center or family day-care provider has ever been sanctioned for
23 either child abuse or neglect findings or other licensing violations;
24 (e) whether a day-care center or family day-care provider is currently
25 or has been in the last three years on a corrective action plan as a
26 result of either a child abuse or neglect finding or other licensing
27 violation; (f) how to report suspected abuse or neglect or
28 noncompliance with licensing standards; and (g) how to contact the
29 office of the family and children's ombudsman.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect December 31, 2000.

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