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SENATE BILL 6244

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State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Carlson, Eide, Kastama, Rasmussen, Regala, Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Franklin and Fairley

Read first time 01/14/2002. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to prekindergarten; adding new sections to chapter  
2 28A.215 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to establish a  
5 process for public and nonpublic prekindergarten programs to seek  
6 voluntary accreditation, by the state board of education, of their  
7 child development and educational offerings. The purpose of the  
8 accreditation is to give parents and other consumers of prekindergarten  
9 programs some standard to use to assess the quality of prekindergarten  
10 programs and the program's ability to prepare children for  
11 kindergarten.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By rule, the state board of education shall  
13 adopt standards and procedures for the accreditation of all public and  
14 nonpublic prekindergarten programs. Such programs are encouraged to  
15 apply for accreditation. In developing standards, the state board of  
16 education shall review nationally developed standards. Additionally,  
17 the state board shall ensure that the accredited programs are designed

1 to prepare children to meet the essential academic learning  
2 requirements.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The state board of education shall post a  
4 list of accredited prekindergarten programs on the board's internet web  
5 site.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** No public or nonpublic entity may advertise  
7 that it is an accredited prekindergarten program unless its educational  
8 program has been accredited under this chapter. Any person who  
9 intentionally and falsely advertises that a prekindergarten program is  
10 accredited by the state board of education is guilty of a misdemeanor,  
11 the fine for which shall be no more than one hundred dollars. Each day  
12 that the violation continues shall be considered a separate violation.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act are each  
14 added to chapter 28A.215 RCW.

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