
SENATE BILL 5621

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Weinstein, Pridemore, Rockefeller, Kohl-Welles and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/31/2005. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to preschool or nursery schools; adding new
2 sections to chapter 28A.215 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the early
5 years of a child's life are a time of enormous growth. The legislature
6 further finds that when parents choose to provide early educational
7 opportunities for their children in public or private preschools,
8 parents should have the tools to help find high-quality programs for
9 their children that will help their students be ready to go to school.

10 (2) The legislature intends to establish a voluntary certification
11 process for the child development and educational program offerings of
12 public and nonpublic preschool programs. The purpose of the voluntary
13 certification is to give parents and other consumers of preschool
14 programs the ability to evaluate the educational quality of the
15 preschool program including the program's ability to prepare the child
16 for kindergarten.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** By rule, the superintendent of public
18 instruction shall adopt standards and procedures for the voluntary

1 certification of public and nonpublic preschool child development and
2 educational programs. The standards at a minimum should outline
3 essential components including but not limited to the following
4 categories: School-home relationships; class size and teacher-student
5 ratios; standards for teachers and staff; specification of pedagogical
6 goals, content, and methods, consistent with early learning development
7 benchmarks developed in Washington; and methods for monitoring quality.
8 The superintendent shall develop programs to encourage preschool
9 programs to apply for approval.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The office of the superintendent of public
11 instruction shall post a list of certified preschool programs on its
12 web site.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Any program that meets the definition of
14 nursery school or kindergarten under RCW 74.15.020(2)(g) and is not
15 required to be licensed under chapter 74.15 RCW shall annually file its
16 business name, name of the business owner, address, and phone number
17 with the superintendent of public instruction.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 2 through 4 of this act are each
19 added to chapter 28A.215 RCW.

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