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**Early Learning & Human Services  
Committee**

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**SB 6371**

**Brief Description:** Concerning the definition of "agency" for purposes of early learning programs.

**Sponsors:** Senators Litzow, Mullet, Dammeier, Hargrove, Fain, Hobbs, Hill and McAuliffe; by request of Department of Early Learning.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Modifies the definition of "agency" to exempt school-age programs that operate in schools and meet specified requirements from licensing by the Department of Early Learning.

**Hearing Date:** 2/19/16

**Staff:** Ashley Paintner (786-7120).

**Background:**

School-age child care programs.

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) oversees child care licensing for school-age children, which includes programs that operate before and after school, and during the summer and over holiday breaks. School-age child care currently serves children beginning at age 5 until they reach their twelfth birthday. The DEL serves approximately 11,800 full-time students and 24,500 part-time students through school-age child care programs.

Working Connections Child Care.

The Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) program offers subsidies to child care providers serving families at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Children of families receiving the WCCC benefits are required to be less than 13 years of age or less than 19 years of age and have a verified special need or be under court supervision. In order for a school-age

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child care program to accept the WCCC subsidies, they need to be either a licensed, certified, or DEL-contracted provider.

**Summary of Bill:**

The definition of "agency" is modified to exempt school-age programs from licensing by the DEL if they: (1) are operated by schools, including boarding schools; (2) are engaged primarily in education; (3) operate on a definite school year schedule; (4) follow a stated academic curriculum, and (5) accept only school-age children. The requirement that these programs cannot accept custody of children in order to be license exempt is removed.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.