

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 1554

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Government Operations & Security, March 24, 2015

**Title:** An act relating to exempting information of guardians or family members of children enrolled in child care, early learning, parks and recreation, after-school, and youth development programs.

**Brief Description:** Exempting information of guardians or family members of children enrolled in child care, early learning, parks and recreation, after-school, and youth development programs.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Stambaugh, S. Hunt, Holy, Zeiger, Scott, G. Hunt, Bergquist, Condotta, Ormsby and Young.

**Brief History:** Passed House: 3/11/15, 97-0; 3/11/15, 98-0.

**Committee Activity:** Government Operations & Security: 3/24/15 [DP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & SECURITY

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Roach, Chair; Pearson, Vice Chair; Liias, Ranking Minority Member; Dansel, Habib and McCoy.

**Staff:** Samuel Brown (786-7470)

**Background:** The Public Records Act (PRA), enacted in 1972 as part of Initiative 276, requires that all state and local government agencies make all public records available for public inspection and copying unless certain statutory exemptions apply. The provisions requiring public records disclosure must be interpreted liberally while the exemptions are interpreted narrowly to effectuate the general policy favoring disclosure.

The personal information of a child enrolled in licensed child care or a public or nonprofit program serving children, such as early learning or child care services, parks and recreation programs, youth development programs, and after-school programs is exempt from public disclosure and copying. Emergency contact information of children enrolled in such programs may be provided to appropriate medical personnel and authorities during emergency situations for the purpose of treating the child.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Summary of Bill:** The personal information of family members or guardians of a child enrolled in a licensed child care program or a public or nonprofit children's program is exempt from public disclosure and copying if disclosure of the family member or guardian's information would result in disclosure of the child's personal information and:

- the family member or guardian has the same last name as the child; or
- the family member or guardian resides at the same address as the child.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: Under current law, the personal information of family members is not redacted, so when an incident occurs and a family member has contact with the agency, that information is public. This is a very common-sense bill that closes a loophole in a 2010 law where the legislative intent was to protect the privacy of children enrolled in these programs.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Representative Stambaugh, prime sponsor; Doug Levy, city of Fife, WA Recreation and Park Assn.

**Persons Signed in to Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.