
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5509

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senate Local Government (originally sponsored by Senators Alvarado, Salomon, Bateman, Conway, Nobles, Saldaña, Trudeau, Valdez, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/14/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to the siting of child care centers; adding a new
2 section to chapter 35.21 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter
3 35A.21 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 35.21
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Cities and towns must allow child care centers, and the
8 conversion of existing buildings for use as child care centers, as an
9 outright permitted use in all zones except industrial zones, light
10 industrial zones, and open space zones.

11 (2) Cities may impose reasonable restrictions on the permit,
12 including pickup and drop-off areas.

13 (3) Cities that plan under the growth management act and that are
14 required to submit their next comprehensive plan update in 2027
15 pursuant to RCW 36.70A.130 must adopt or amend by ordinance, and
16 incorporate into their development regulations, zoning regulations,
17 and other official controls, the requirements of this section in
18 their next comprehensive plan update. All other cities must implement
19 the requirements of this section within two years of the effective
20 date of this section.

1 (4) Nothing in this section limits a city from allowing child
2 care centers in other zones, including industrial zones or light
3 industrial zones. A city must provide for a conditional use approval
4 of an on-site child care center in industrial or light industrial
5 zones, except in or around high hazard facilities.

6 (5) For the purposes of this section, "child care centers" has
7 the same meaning as in RCW 43.216.010.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 35A.21
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1) Code cities and towns must allow child care centers, and the
11 conversion of existing buildings for use as child care centers, as an
12 outright permitted use in all zones except industrial zones, light
13 industrial zones, and open space zones.

14 (2) Code cities may impose reasonable restrictions on the permit,
15 including pickup and drop-off areas.

16 (3) Code cities that plan under the growth management act and
17 that are required to submit their next comprehensive plan update in
18 2027 pursuant to RCW 36.70A.130 must adopt or amend by ordinance, and
19 incorporate into their development regulations, zoning regulations,
20 and other official controls, the requirements of this section in
21 their next comprehensive plan update. All other code cities must
22 implement the requirements of this section within two years of the
23 effective date of this section.

24 (4) Nothing in this section limits a code city from allowing
25 child care centers in other zones, including industrial zones or
26 light industrial zones. A code city must provide for a conditional
27 use approval of an on-site child care center in industrial or light
28 industrial zones, except in or around high hazard facilities.

29 (5) For the purposes of this section, "child care centers" has
30 the same meaning as in RCW 43.216.010.

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