
HOUSE BILL 2511

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Pike, Scott, Vick, Shea, and Walsh

1 AN ACT Relating to child care center licensing requirements;
2 adding a new section to chapter 43.215 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that the
6 high cost of quality child care places a heavy burden on Washington's
7 poorest families. The legislature further acknowledges the
8 administrative burden unnecessary regulations place on child care
9 providers and the families they serve. The legislature finds that
10 under current rule, child care providers may not serve five year olds
11 attending school in the same group as five year olds not attending
12 school.

13 (2) The legislature intends to require the department of early
14 learning to allow five year olds, regardless of whether they attend
15 elementary school or not, to be placed in the same group. The
16 legislature further intends to streamline the delivery of services to
17 children while continuing to protect their safety and well-being.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.215
19 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The department may not adopt rules that prohibit licensed
2 child care centers from serving children age sixty months through
3 five years, whether attending elementary school or not, in a mixed
4 group or classroom.

5 (2) By November 1, 2016, the department shall amend rules
6 necessary to implement this section.

7 (3) This section does not remove or change staff-to-child ratio
8 requirements.

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