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**SENATE BILL 5161**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Dhingra, Wellman, Das, Keiser, Palumbo, Wilson, C.,  
McCoy, and Llias

1 AN ACT Relating to creation of a certified child safety policy;  
2 and adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The following definitions apply to this section:

7 (a) "Certified child safety policy" means a policy put in place  
8 by a child safety certification provider that meets the minimum  
9 standards developed by the child safety certification provider based  
10 on the following child safety policy standards:

11 (i) Screening and selecting employees and volunteers;

12 (ii) Guidelines on interactions between individuals;

13 (iii) Monitoring employee and participant behavior;

14 (iv) Ensuring safe environments;

15 (v) Responding to inappropriate behavior, breaches in policy, and  
16 allegations; and

17 (vi) Training about child sexual abuse prevention, as described  
18 by the United States department of health and human services centers  
19 for disease control and prevention;

20 (b) "Child safety certification provider" means a nongovernmental  
21 organization that has experience in reducing the likelihood of child

1 sexual assault and misconduct that is selected by the department to  
2 develop a certified child safety policy, certifying that youth  
3 recreational organizations have a child safety policy that meets  
4 minimum standards and providing assistance to youth recreational  
5 organizations in developing and implementing those child safety  
6 policies; and

7 (c) "Youth recreational organizations" means any organization  
8 that provides recreational programming to individuals under age  
9 eighteen, including private and local government organizations, and  
10 any organization contracting with a local government organization for  
11 youth recreational programming.

12 (2) The department shall contract with a child safety  
13 certification provider to develop a certified child safety policy for  
14 all youth recreational organizations. The minimum standards created  
15 by the certified child safety policy shall be used by the child  
16 safety certification provider to certify that youth recreational  
17 organizations have a child safety policy that meets minimum  
18 standards. The minimum standards required for a certified child  
19 safety policy must be made available on the public web site of the  
20 department by January 1, 2020. All youth recreational organizations  
21 are encouraged to work with the child safety certification provider  
22 to establish a certified child safety policy.

23 (3) Beginning July 1, 2020, the department shall select a five  
24 county pilot program and collaborate with the child safety  
25 certification provider and local governments in that five county  
26 region to ensure that all local government youth recreational  
27 organizations have established and implemented a certified child  
28 safety policy by December 1, 2020. The five county pilot region  
29 selected pursuant to this subsection shall include five contiguous  
30 counties with a combined population between one million two hundred  
31 thousand and one million three hundred thousand.

32 (4) By December 15, 2020, the department shall report to the  
33 appropriate committees of the legislature the following:

34 (a) A description of the pilot program included in subsection (3)  
35 of this section;

36 (b) A description of the certified child safety policy  
37 requirements;

38 (c) Recommendations regarding implementing the certified child  
39 safety policy in all youth recreational organizations statewide; and

1 (d) After consultation with the department of early learning,  
2 recommendations for modifying and implementing a certified child  
3 safety policy appropriate for child care providers.

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