
HOUSE BILL 1566

State of Washington

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By Representatives R. King, Moyer, H. Myers, Belcher, Leonard, Winsley, Fraser, Beck, Anderson, R. Fisher, Wood, Heavey, Wang and Bowman.

Read first time February 1, 1991. Referred to Committee on Trade & Economic Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to child care workers' wages; amending RCW
2 43.31.085; adding new sections to chapter 74.13 RCW; creating a new
3 section; and making an appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the
6 salaries of child care workers are unacceptably low relative to the
7 value of their work and wages paid to others in comparable occupations.
8 Low wages lead to high turnover among child care workers, and high
9 turnover rates have been shown to adversely affect the quality of child
10 care services. The legislature further finds that it is especially
11 difficult for child care providers to increase child care workers'
12 wages because of the inability of lower and middle income parents to
13 afford higher child care costs.

14 (2) The legislature intends, through the establishment of the child
15 care wage enhancement program, to increase child care workers' wages

1 and provide child care providers with the small business management
2 skills necessary to maintain higher wage levels, thereby improving the
3 quality and increasing the supply of child care services in Washington.
4 The legislature further intends to improve the availability of quality
5 child care services for children of low-income families.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
7 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout sections 3
8 and 4 of this act.

9 (1) "Child care provider" means a child care facility licensed
10 pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW.

11 (2) "Child care workers" means persons employed by child care
12 providers as assistant teachers, teachers, and program directors who
13 spend at least fifty percent of their work hours teaching children in
14 care.

15 (3) "Child care coordinating committee" means the committee
16 established pursuant to RCW 74.13.090.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The child care wage enhancement
18 grant program is hereby established in the department. To the extent
19 funds are available, the department shall award grants on a competitive
20 basis to child care providers who meet the conditions specified in
21 subsection (2) of this section.

22 (2) As a condition of receiving a child care wage enhancement
23 grant, a child care provider must agree to:

24 (a) Enhance the wages of child care workers employed by the
25 provider to at least six dollars per hour;

26 (b) Use grant funds solely for child care workers' wages, and not
27 to supplant or substitute any other funding available for child care
28 services with grant funds;

1 (c) Have a goal of increasing the number of children cared for by
2 the child care provider for whom the costs of child care are subsidized
3 by the department to a minimum of fifteen percent of the slots in the
4 child care facility by the end of the grant period;

5 (d) Participate in a follow-up survey to determine the impact of
6 increased wages funded by the grant on child care worker turnover; and

7 (e) Submit a plan to the department for maintaining increased child
8 care workers' wages after the period of the grant terminates.

9 (3) The department shall coordinate development of child care wage
10 enhancement grant request for proposals and screening of grant
11 applicants with the child care coordinating committee.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The department, in coordination with the
13 child care coordinating committee, shall conduct a follow-up survey of
14 child care providers at the termination of the grant period to
15 determine the impact of the child care wage enhancement grants on
16 turnover rates for child care workers.

17 **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.31.085 and 1989 c 430 s 2 are each amended to read
18 as follows:

19 The business assistance center shall:

20 (1) Serve as the state's lead agency and advocate for the
21 development and conservation of businesses.

22 (2) Coordinate the delivery of state programs to assist businesses.

23 (3) Provide comprehensive referral services to businesses requiring
24 government assistance.

25 (4) Serve as the business ombudsman within state government and
26 advise the governor and the legislature of the need for new legislation
27 to improve the effectiveness of state programs to assist businesses.

1 (5) Aggressively promote business awareness of the state's business
2 programs and distribute information on the services available to
3 businesses.

4 (6) Develop, in concert with local economic development and
5 business assistance organizations, coordinated processes that
6 complement both state and local activities and services.

7 (7) The business assistance center shall work with other federal,
8 state, and local agencies and organizations to ensure that business
9 assistance services including small business, trade services, and
10 distressed area programs are provided in a coordinated and cost-
11 effective manner.

12 (8) In collaboration with the child care coordinating committee in
13 the department of social and health services, prepare and disseminate
14 information on child care options for employers and the existence of
15 the program. As much as possible, and through interagency agreements
16 where necessary, such information should be included in the routine
17 communications to employers from (a) the department of revenue, (b) the
18 department of labor and industries, (c) the department of community
19 development, (d) the employment security department, (e) the department
20 of trade and economic development, (f) the small business development
21 center, and (g) the department of social and health services.

22 (9) In collaboration with the child care coordinating committee in
23 the department of social and health services, compile information on
24 and facilitate employer access to individuals, firms, organizations,
25 and agencies that provide technical assistance to employers to enable
26 them to develop and support child care services or facilities.

27 (10) Actively seek public and private money to support the child
28 care facility fund described in RCW 43.31.502, staff and assist the
29 child care facility fund committee as described in RCW 43.31.504, and

1 work to promote applications to the committee for loan guarantees,
2 loans, and grants.

3 (11) In collaboration with community-based child care resource and
4 referral agencies, provide training to child care providers who have
5 received child care wage enhancement grants to develop their plans for
6 maintaining increased wages pursuant to section 3(2)(e) of this act.

7 (12) In collaboration with community-based child care resource and
8 referral agencies, provide training to child care providers to increase
9 their small business management skills. To the greatest extent
10 practicable, each child care resource and referral agency shall recruit
11 small businesses in the geographic area served by the agency to
12 participate in the training.

13 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. The sum of two million one hundred
14 twenty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
15 appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1993, from the general
16 fund to the department of social and health services for the purposes
17 of this act. No more than one hundred twenty thousand dollars of this
18 appropriation shall be used by the department for administration of the
19 child care wage enhancement grant program.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. Sections 2 through 4 of this act are
21 each added to chapter 74.13 RCW.