
SENATE BILL 6726

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Brown, Patterson and Kohl

Read first time 01/29/98. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to child care; adding new sections to chapter 74.12
2 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that adequate child
5 care reimbursement rates are critical to the effort to maintain a child
6 care strategy that achieves the dual goals of moving families from
7 welfare to work, and promoting the social, intellectual, and physical
8 well-being of children.

9 Adequate reimbursement rates allow providers to offer high quality
10 and safe services essential to a child's development and to stimulate
11 a greater supply of providers, which will increase choice, quality,
12 safety, and access.

13 The legislature also finds that access to child care during
14 nonstandard work hours and weekends is critical to helping low-income
15 families achieve economic independence. Higher reimbursement rates to
16 providers of this care will increase the availability of this care,
17 expand the opportunity for low-income families to find and maintain
18 jobs, and promote the social and intellectual development of children.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.12 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 The department shall administer a single, integrated child care
4 program to serve families with incomes up to one hundred seventy-five
5 percent of the federal poverty level. To establish child care
6 reimbursement rates, the department shall conduct a biennial survey of
7 licensed child care centers and family child care providers to
8 determine the rates paid for child care at licensed facilities. The
9 child care program established in this section shall provide payments
10 for child care at a level at least equal to the seventy-fifth
11 percentile of the rates determined as a result of the biennial surveys
12 required in this section.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.12 RCW
14 to read as follows:

15 The department shall provide payments that are at least ten percent
16 higher than the seventy-fifth percentile of rates paid to licensed
17 child care centers and family child care providers when they provide
18 these services on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and between the hours
19 of six o'clock p.m. and six o'clock a.m., Monday through Friday.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 74.12 RCW
21 to read as follows:

22 The department shall provide the payments required by sections 2
23 and 3 of this act by July 1, 1999.

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