

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SB 5809

As Passed House - Amended:
April 16, 2013

Title: An act relating to the home visiting services account.

Brief Description: Changing provisions relating to the home visiting services account.

Sponsors: Senator Litzow.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Appropriations Subcommittee on Education: 3/20/13, 4/4/13 [DPA].

Floor Activity:

Passed House - Amended: 4/16/13, 92-4.

**Brief Summary of Bill
(As Amended by House)**

- Makes the Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA) a fully appropriated account.
- Directs all federal funds received by the Department of Early Learning (DEL) for home visiting to be deposited into the HVSA.
- Designates the DEL as the lead agency for home visiting.
- Adds legislative intent that state funds be matched at 50 percent.
- Limits administrative cost to an average of 4 percent in any two consecutive fiscal years.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Majority Report: Do pass as amended. Signed by 7 members: Representatives Haigh, Chair; Carlyle, Haler, Maxwell, Pettigrew, Seaquist and Sullivan.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 3 members: Representatives Fagan, Ranking Minority Member; Dahlquist and Wilcox.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Staff: Wendy Polzin (786-7137).

Background:

In 2006 the Legislature established the Department of Early Learning (DEL). At this time it also established a private-public partnership, Thrive by Five Washington (Thrive), to focus on supporting the state's investments in early learning.

In 2010 the Legislature established the Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA), which is administered by the DEL. The HVSA is appropriated for administrative expenses and nonappropriated for all other expenses. The HVSA contains a combination of state and federal funds used for home visiting activities aimed at enhancing child development and well-being, reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and promoting school readiness. Expenditures from the HVSA can only be made after private matching funds raised by Thrive are committed and available.

The DEL contracts with Thrive to administer home visiting programs funded through the HVSA. Thrive funds home visiting programs using a competitive bid process.

Summary of Amended Bill:

The Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA) is changed to be a fully appropriated account. All federal funds received by the Department of Early Learning (DEL) for home visiting must be deposited into the HVSA. The DEL is designated as overseeing the HVSA and is named lead agency for home visiting system development, while Thrive by Five Washington (Thrive) is directed to administer the home visiting service delivery system and support funded programs. States legislative intent that state funds invested in the account be matched at 50 percent by the private-public partnership. However, if the private-public partnership does not meet this target, state funds may still be accessed. Limits amounts used by the DEL for program administration to an average of 4 percent in any two consecutive fiscal years. The requirement that private funds be available at the time of public expenditure is removed. Thrive must report to the DEL quarterly to demonstrate sufficient investment of private match funds. Removes language which erroneously indicated that private funds are deposited into the HVSA. Thrive is directed to fund programs through a competitive bid process or in compliance with regulations of the funding source. Provisions related to transitional funding of home visiting programs prior to June 30, 2012, are removed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date of Amended Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) This legislation clarifies the roles of the Department of Early Learning (DEL) and Thrive by Five Washington (Thrive). After the Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA)

was created, the state received several federal grants, and this bill aligns the HVSA with federal grant requirements. Only public dollars are invested in the account. Thrive is excited to partner with the DEL. The bill language has been vetted. The legislation helps ensure the home visiting funds go to those who need it most.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Kelli Bohanon, Department of Early Learning; Lauren Hipp, Thrive by Five Washington; and Carol Wood, State Home Visiting Coalition.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.