

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5595

63rd Legislature
2013 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate April 27, 2013
YEAS 38 NAYS 7

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 23, 2013
YEAS 58 NAYS 39

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5595** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

Secretary

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5595

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2013 Regular Session

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2013 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Billig, Litzow, Darneille, Fain, Hargrove, McAuliffe, Harper, Nelson, Hobbs, Mullet, Frockt, Cleveland, Rolfes, Kohl-Welles, Shin, Kline, and Conway)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to child care reform; adding a new section to
2 chapter 43.215 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an expiration
3 date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.215 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The standards and guidelines described in this section are
8 intended for the guidance of the department and the department of
9 social and health services. They are not intended to, do not, and may
10 not be relied upon to create a right or benefit, substantive or
11 procedural, enforceable at law by a party in litigation with the state.

12 (2) When providing services to parents applying for or receiving
13 working connections child care benefits, the department must provide
14 training to departmental employees on professionalism.

15 (3) When providing services to parents applying for or receiving
16 working connections child care benefits, the department of social and
17 health services has the following responsibilities:

18 (a) To return all calls from parents receiving working connections
19 child care benefits within two business days of receiving the call;

1 (b) To develop a process by which parents receiving working
2 connections child care benefits can submit required forms and
3 information electronically by June 30, 2015;

4 (c) To notify providers and parents ten days before the loss of
5 working connections child care benefits; and

6 (d) To provide parents with a document that explains in detail and
7 in easily understood language what services they are eligible for, how
8 they can appeal an adverse decision, and the parents' responsibilities
9 in obtaining and maintaining eligibility for working connections child
10 care.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) A legislative task force on child
12 care improvements for the future is established with members as
13 provided in this subsection.

14 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from each
15 of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

16 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint two
17 members from each of the two largest caucuses in the house of
18 representatives.

19 (iii) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
20 representatives shall appoint fifteen members representing the
21 following interests:

22 (A) The department of early learning;

23 (B) The department of social and health services;

24 (C) The early learning advisory committee;

25 (D) Thrive by five;

26 (E) Private pay child care consumers;

27 (F) Child care consumers receiving a subsidy;

28 (G) Family child care providers;

29 (H) Child care center providers;

30 (I) Exempt child care providers;

31 (J) The collective bargaining unit representing child care
32 providers;

33 (K) School-age child care providers;

34 (L) Child care aware;

35 (M) The Washington state association of head start and the early
36 childhood education and assistance program;

37 (N) The early learning action alliance; and

1 (0) Puget Sound educational service district.

2 (b) The task force shall choose its cochairs from among its
3 legislative leadership. The members of the majority party in each
4 house shall convene the first meeting.

5 (2) The task force shall address the following issues:

6 (a) The creation of a tiered reimbursement model that works for
7 both consumers and providers and provides incentives for quality child
8 care across communities;

9 (b) The development of recommendations and an implementation plan
10 for expansion of the program referred to in RCW 43.215.400 to include
11 a mixed delivery system that integrates community-based early learning
12 providers, including but not limited to family child care, child care
13 centers, schools, and educational services districts. Recommendations
14 shall include:

15 (i) Areas of alignment and conflicts in restrictions and
16 eligibility requirements associated with early learning funding and
17 services;

18 (ii) A funding plan that blends and maximizes existing resources
19 and identifies new revenue and other funding sources; and

20 (iii) Incentives for integrating child care and preschool
21 programming to better serve working families;

22 (c) The development of recommendations for market rate
23 reimbursement to allow access to high quality child care; and

24 (d) The development of recommendations for a further graduation of
25 the copay scale to eliminate the cliff that occurs at subsidy cut off.

26 (3) Staff support for the task force must be provided by the senate
27 committee services and the house of representatives office of program
28 research.

29 (4) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
30 the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature no later
31 than December 31, 2013.

32 (5) This section expires July 1, 2014.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The legislature finds that the Aclara
34 group report on the eligibility requirements for working connections
35 child care which came from the pedagogy of lean management and focused
36 on identifying and eliminating nonvalue added work should be followed.
37 The legislature further finds that, following some of the

1 recommendations in the report, would result in simplifying and
2 streamlining the child care system to improve access and customer
3 service without decreasing the program's integrity.

4 (2) By December 1, 2013, the department and the department of
5 social and health services shall accomplish the following:

6 (a) Eliminate the current custody/visitation policy and design a
7 subsidy system that is flexible and accounts for small fluctuations in
8 family circumstances;

9 (b) Create broad authorization categories so that relatively minor
10 changes in parents' work schedule does not require changes in
11 authorization;

12 (c) Establish rules to specify that parents who receive working
13 connections child care benefits and participate in one hundred ten
14 hours or more of approved work or related activities are eligible for
15 full-time child care services; and

16 (d) Clarify and simplify the requirement to count child support as
17 income.

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