
HOUSE BILL 1142

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Reeves, Gregerson, and Stanford

Read first time 01/15/19. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Early Learning.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring an assessment of Washington's child
2 care industry; adding a new section to chapter 43.330 RCW; and
3 providing an expiration 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 43.330
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall enter into a contract for the
8 development of a regional assessment of the child care industry in
9 Washington in order to better understand issues affecting child care
10 access and affordability for families. The department shall conduct
11 one or more competitive solicitations in accordance with chapter
12 39.26 RCW to select a third-party entity to conduct the industry
13 assessment. The third-party entity selected by the department through
14 the competitive process must have experience in national industry
15 assessment.

16 (2) The industry assessment must be submitted to the appropriate
17 policy and fiscal committees of the legislature, the governor, and
18 the members of the child care collaborative task force established in
19 chapter 91, Laws of 2018 by July 1, 2020. The assessment must, at a
20 minimum:

1 (a) Incorporate current data on the number of children age twelve
2 and under who are receiving care from child care and early learning
3 providers. The data must differentiate, to the extent possible:
4 Children served by licensed and certified child care centers and
5 family homes; license-exempt providers who care for children for four
6 hours or less per day; family, friend, and neighbor caregivers;
7 nannies and au pairs; religious organizations providing care;
8 entities providing before-and-after school care; employer-supported
9 child care; and other formal and informal networks of care. The data
10 must include a breakdown, by provider type, of the:

11 (i) Number of children receiving state subsidized care;

12 (ii) Number of children receiving exclusively private pay care;
13 and

14 (iii) Average number of years of provider operations and the
15 average number of times a provider has changed locations;

16 (b) Define and describe the characteristics of the informal child
17 care market, including estimates of the children served in this
18 market by age group;

19 (c) Identify family child care choices by family income bracket;

20 (d) Include a visual representation of child care supply and
21 demand by region that identifies areas with the highest need related
22 to child care accessibility and affordability;

23 (e) Identify trends in the relationship between private pay rates
24 and subsidy rates for child care providers; and

25 (f) Include an analysis of the industry's measurable contribution
26 to the state's economy, including:

27 (i) Employment and wage information for self-employed licensed
28 child care providers and the employees of licensed child care
29 providers;

30 (ii) Workforce pipeline data for early learning professions;

31 (iii) The estimated costs to the state economy of child care
32 inaccessibility, including lost economic activity and reduced tax
33 revenue; and

34 (iv) Direct and indirect effects on labor participation,
35 workplace productivity, and household earnings of working parents who
36 use child care. The analysis must include information related to the
37 workplace productivity of workers using employer-supported child
38 care.

39 (3) For the purposes of this section, "employer-supported child
40 care" means:

1 (a) A licensed child care center operated at or near the
2 workplace by an employer for the benefit of employees; or

3 (b) Financial assistance provided by an employer for licensed
4 child care expenses incurred by an employee.

5 (4) This section expires December 31, 2020.

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