

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT  
**SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1303**

Chapter 97, Laws of 2019

66th Legislature  
2019 Regular Session

WORKING CONNECTIONS CHILD CARE--WORK REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 28, 2019

Passed by the House March 6, 2019  
Yeas 90 Nays 6

FRANK CHOPP

**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

Passed by the Senate April 12, 2019  
Yeas 43 Nays 4

KAREN KEISER

**President of the Senate**

Approved April 23, 2019 3:45 PM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1303** as passed by House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN

**Chief Clerk**

FILED

April 24, 2019

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1303

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Passed Legislature - 2019 Regular Session

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

**By** House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Shewmake, Eslick, Pollet, Griffey, Riccelli, Senn, Appleton, Dolan, Frame, Paul, Goodman, Robinson, Springer, Lekanoff, Macri, Thai, Tharinger, Stanford, Bergquist, Jinkins, Leavitt, and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving access and completion for students  
2 at institutions of higher education, especially at community and  
3 technical colleges, by removing restrictions on subsidized child  
4 care; amending RCW 43.216.135; adding a new section to chapter 28B.50  
5 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes the  
8 following:

9 (a) In Washington, over forty-six thousand community and  
10 technical college (CTC) students, which represents twenty-three  
11 percent of all CTC students in the state, are parents of dependent  
12 children. Student parents represent more than one-quarter of CTC  
13 students in Washington who receive financial aid. Financial  
14 assistance however, does not sufficiently cover many student parents'  
15 college expenses.

16 (b) Caregiving demands affect student parents' ability to devote  
17 the time needed to succeed in school. Nearly three-quarters of women  
18 community college students living with dependents report spending  
19 over twenty hours per week caring for dependents. Many of these  
20 students report that care demands are likely to lead them to drop  
21 out: Forty-three percent of women and thirty-seven percent of men at

1 two-year institutions who live with children say they are likely or  
2 very likely to withdraw from college to care for dependents.

3 (c) In addition, child care costs represent a large financial  
4 burden for parents who are in college. The annual cost of full-time,  
5 center-based infant care averages over thirteen thousand dollars in  
6 Washington. Given the financial pressures experienced by student  
7 parents, both married and single, assistance with paying for quality  
8 child care services could dramatically improve their ability to make  
9 ends meet and complete their higher education programs.

10 (d) Work requirements imposed on student parents as a condition  
11 for receiving child care assistance can have negative consequences  
12 for parents in education or job training. Students working more than  
13 fifteen hours per week achieve significantly lower college attainment  
14 compared with those who work fewer hours. Nationally, fifty-eight  
15 percent of community college student parents who work fifteen or more  
16 hours per week leave school without earning a credential within six  
17 years of enrollment, compared with forty-eight percent who work less  
18 than fifteen hours per week.

19 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to improve access and  
20 completion rates of student parents enrolled in community and  
21 technical colleges by reducing existing restrictions to subsidized  
22 child care.

23 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.216.135 and 2018 c 52 s 6 are each amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 (1) The department shall establish and implement policies in the  
26 working connections child care program to promote stability and  
27 quality of care for children from low-income households. These  
28 policies shall focus on supporting school readiness for young  
29 learners. Policies for the expenditure of funds constituting the  
30 working connections child care program must be consistent with the  
31 outcome measures established by the department and the standards  
32 established in this section intended to promote stability, quality,  
33 and continuity of early care and education programming.

34 (2) As recommended by Public Law 113-186, authorizations for the  
35 working connections child care subsidy shall be effective for twelve  
36 months beginning July 1, 2016, unless an earlier date is provided in  
37 the omnibus appropriations act.

1 (3) Existing child care providers serving nonschool-age children  
2 and receiving state subsidy payments must complete the following  
3 requirements to be eligible for a state subsidy under this section:

4 (a) Enroll in the early achievers program by August 1, 2016;

5 (b) Complete level 2 activities in the early achievers program by  
6 August 1, 2017; and

7 (c) Rate at a level 3 or higher in the early achievers program by  
8 December 31, 2019. If a child care provider rates below a level 3 by  
9 December 31, 2019, the provider must complete remedial activities  
10 with the department, and rate at a level 3 or higher no later than  
11 June 30, 2020.

12 (4) Effective July 1, 2016, a new child care provider serving  
13 nonschool-age children and receiving state subsidy payments must  
14 complete the following activities to be eligible to receive a state  
15 subsidy under this section:

16 (a) Enroll in the early achievers program within thirty days of  
17 receiving the initial state subsidy payment;

18 (b) Complete level 2 activities in the early achievers program  
19 within twelve months of enrollment; and

20 (c) Rate at a level 3 or higher in the early achievers program  
21 within thirty months of enrollment. If a child care provider rates  
22 below a level 3 within thirty months from enrollment into the early  
23 achievers program, the provider must complete remedial activities  
24 with the department, and rate at a level 3 or higher within six  
25 months of beginning remedial activities.

26 (5) If a child care provider does not rate at a level 3 or higher  
27 following the remedial period, the provider is no longer eligible to  
28 receive state subsidy under this section.

29 (6) If a child care provider serving nonschool-age children and  
30 receiving state subsidy payments has successfully completed all level  
31 2 activities and is waiting to be rated by the deadline provided in  
32 this section, the provider may continue to receive a state subsidy  
33 pending the successful completion of the level 3 rating activity.

34 (7) The department shall implement tiered reimbursement for early  
35 achievers program participants in the working connections child care  
36 program rating at level 3, 4, or 5.

37 (8) The department shall account for a child care copayment  
38 collected by the provider from the family for each contracted slot  
39 and establish the copayment fee by rule.

1 (9) (a) The department shall establish and implement policies in  
2 the working connections child care program to allow eligibility for  
3 families with children who:

4 (i) In the last six months have:

5 (A) Received child protective services as defined and used by  
6 chapters 26.44 and 74.13 RCW;

7 (B) Received child welfare services as defined and used by  
8 chapter 74.13 RCW; or

9 (C) Received services through a family assessment response as  
10 defined and used by chapter 26.44 RCW;

11 (ii) Have been referred for child care as part of the family's  
12 case management as defined by RCW 74.13.020; and

13 (iii) Are residing with a biological parent or guardian.

14 (b) Children who are eligible for working connections child care  
15 pursuant to this subsection do not have to keep receiving services  
16 identified in this subsection to maintain twelve-month authorization.  
17 The department of social and health services' involvement with the  
18 family referred for working connections child care ends when the  
19 family's child protective services, child welfare services, or family  
20 assessment response case is closed.

21 (10) (a) Beginning August 1, 2020, the department may not require  
22 an applicant or consumer to meet work requirements as a condition of  
23 receiving working connections child care benefits when the applicant  
24 or consumer is:

25 (i) A full-time student of a community, technical, or tribal  
26 college; and

27 (ii) Pursuing a certificate in nursing, early childhood  
28 education, a mental health profession, or paraeducation.

29 (b) An applicant or consumer is a full-time student for the  
30 purposes of this subsection if he or she meets the college's  
31 definition of a full-time student. The student must be maintaining  
32 passing grades and be in good standing pursuant to college attendance  
33 requirements.

34 (c) Nothing in this subsection is intended to change how  
35 applicants or consumers are prioritized when applicants or consumers  
36 are placed on a wait list for working connections child care  
37 benefits.

38 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A new section is added to chapter 28B.50  
39 RCW to read as follows:

1        Nothing in RCW 43.216.135 requires a community or technical  
2 college to expand any of its existing child care facilities. Any  
3 additional child care services provided by a community or technical  
4 college as a result of RCW 43.216.135 must be provided within  
5 existing resources and existing facilities.

6        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    If specific funding for the purposes of  
7 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
8 provided by June 30, 2019, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
9 act is null and void.

Passed by the House March 6, 2019.  
Passed by the Senate April 12, 2019.  
Approved by the Governor April 23, 2019.  
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