
SENATE BILL 5310

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Braun, Boehnke, and Christian

Read first time 01/16/25. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to child care subsidy rates; amending RCW
2 43.216.828; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.216.828 and 2021 c 199 s 301 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) It is the intent of the legislature to systemically increase
7 child care subsidy rates over time until rates are equal to the full
8 cost of providing high quality child care.

9 (2) (a) Beginning July 1, ((2021, child care subsidy base rates
10 must achieve the 85th)) 2025, the department must pay the lesser of
11 the following to a licensed or certified child care center, family
12 home provider, and outdoor nature-based child care provider receiving
13 state subsidy payments:

14 (i) The child care provider's rate for a child from a family not
15 eligible for state subsidy payments; or

16 (ii) The child care subsidy base rate that achieves the 75th
17 percentile of market for licensed or certified child care providers.

18 (b) The state and the exclusive representative for family ((child
19 care)) home providers must enter into bargaining over the
20 implementation of the subsidy rate increase under this subsection.

1 (3) (a) The department shall build upon the work of the child care
2 collaborative task force to develop and implement a child care cost
3 estimate model and use the completed child care cost model to
4 recommend subsidy rates at levels that are sufficient to compensate
5 licensed or certified child care providers for the full costs of
6 providing high quality child care. The department shall consider:

7 (i) Adjusting rates to reflect cost of living such as area median
8 income, cost of living by zip code, and grouping by categories such
9 as rural, suburban, or urban; and

10 (ii) Incorporating the rate model for nonstandard child care
11 hours developed under section 306, chapter 199, Laws of 2021.

12 (b) The department shall build upon the work of the child care
13 collaborative task force to evaluate options to support access to
14 affordable health care insurance coverage for licensed or certified
15 child care providers.

16 (4) This section does not interfere with, impede, or in any way
17 diminish the right of family (~~(child care)~~) home providers to bargain
18 collectively with the state through the exclusive bargaining
19 representatives as provided for under RCW 41.56.028.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
21 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
22 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
23 effect July 1, 2025.

--- END ---