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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6501**

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**State of Washington**

**54th Legislature**

**1996 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl, Hargrove, Long, Thibaudeau and McAuliffe)

Read first time 02/02/96.

1 AN ACT Relating to the child care coordinating committee; amending  
2 RCW 74.13.090; creating new sections; and making appropriations.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that promoting quality  
5 child care and early childhood education services is a fundamental  
6 state policy. The legislature also finds that the quality of child  
7 care and early childhood education services is directly linked to the  
8 quality of education and training of persons providing early child care  
9 and education and school-age care, and wages and working conditions of  
10 child care workers. The legislature intends that the child care  
11 coordinating committee begin formulating a comprehensive career  
12 development plan for early child care and education and school-age care  
13 to promote equal access to education and training, uniform educational  
14 and training programs, and recognition of early child care and  
15 education and school-age care as a profession with commensurate wages  
16 and working conditions.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The University of Washington services policy  
18 center shall conduct a study of state child care worker wages and

1 affordability of child care services. The study shall include: (1) A  
2 comparison of state markets for child care, including variability of  
3 child care worker wages; (2) labor market data, including, but not  
4 limited to, wages as compared to cost-of-living and secondary earners;  
5 (3) state-wide turnover rates; (4) supply and demand of child care  
6 workers; (5) the cost of education and training in the field of child  
7 care; and (6) affordability of child care services at different levels  
8 of family income. The center shall work in consultation with the  
9 employment security department, the department of labor and industries,  
10 the department of social and health services, and other relevant  
11 agencies responsible for child care issues. The center shall make its  
12 study available to the appropriate committees of the legislature and  
13 the child care coordinating committee by January 2, 1997.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The child care coordinating committee shall  
15 research and submit proposals for a comprehensive career development  
16 plan for education and training in early child care and education and  
17 school-age care. In proposing a plan, the committee shall:

18 (1) Review other state models and educational or institutional  
19 programs;

20 (2) Review the results of the study required under section 2 of  
21 this act;

22 (3) Seek technical assistance or professional review as needed;

23 (4) Coordinate and facilitate seminars, hearings, conferences, or  
24 other state or local forums; and

25 (5) Address issues of credit equivalencies and articulation  
26 agreements between state educational institutions and programs,  
27 including four-year universities, community colleges, technical  
28 schools, and community-based programs.

29 The committee shall report to the legislature by July 1, 1997, its  
30 recommendations for a comprehensive career development plan, including  
31 time and funding needs, and recommendations for implementation of the  
32 plan.

33 **Sec. 4.** RCW 74.13.090 and 1995 c 399 s 204 are each amended to  
34 read as follows:

35 (1) There is established a child care coordinating committee to  
36 provide coordination and communication between state agencies  
37 responsible for child care and early childhood education services. The

1 child care coordinating committee shall be composed of not less than  
2 (~~seventeen~~) twenty-three nor more than thirty-three members who shall  
3 include:

4 (a) One representative each from the department of social and  
5 health services, the department of community, trade, and economic  
6 development, the office of the superintendent of public instruction,  
7 and any other agency having responsibility for regulation, provision,  
8 or funding of child care services in the state;

9 (b) One representative from the department of labor and industries;

10 (c) One representative from the department of revenue;

11 (d) One representative from the employment security department;

12 (e) One representative from the department of personnel;

13 (f) One representative from the department of health;

14 (g) One representative from the higher education coordinating  
15 board;

16 (h) One representative from the state board of education;

17 (i) One representative from the state board for community and  
18 technical colleges;

19 (j) At least one representative of family home child care providers  
20 and one representative of center care providers;

21 (~~(h)~~) (k) At least one representative of early childhood  
22 development experts;

23 (~~(i)~~) (l) At least one representative of school districts and  
24 teachers involved in the provision of child care and preschool  
25 programs;

26 (~~(j)~~) (m) At least one parent education specialist;

27 (~~(k)~~) (n) At least one representative of resource and referral  
28 programs;

29 (~~(l)~~) (o) One pediatric or other health professional;

30 (~~(m)~~) (p) At least one representative of college or university  
31 child care providers;

32 (~~(n)~~) (q) At least one representative of a citizen group  
33 concerned with child care;

34 (~~(o)~~) (r) At least one representative of a labor organization;

35 (~~(p)~~) (s) At least one representative of a head start - early  
36 childhood education assistance program agency;

37 (~~(q)~~) (t) At least one employer who provides child care  
38 assistance to employees;

1       (~~(r)~~) (u) Parents of children receiving, or in need of, child  
2 care, half of whom shall be parents needing or receiving subsidized  
3 child care and half of whom shall be parents who are able to pay for  
4 child care.

5       The named state agencies shall select their representative to the  
6 child care coordinating committee. The department of social and health  
7 services shall select the remaining members, considering  
8 recommendations from lists submitted by professional associations and  
9 other interest groups until such time as the committee adopts a member  
10 selection process. The department shall use any federal funds which  
11 may become available to accomplish the purposes of RCW 74.13.085  
12 through 74.13.095.

13       The committee shall elect officers from among its membership and  
14 shall adopt policies and procedures specifying the lengths of terms,  
15 methods for filling vacancies, and other matters necessary to the  
16 ongoing functioning of the committee. The secretary of social and  
17 health services shall appoint a temporary chair until the committee has  
18 adopted policies and elected a chair accordingly. Child care  
19 coordinating committee members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses  
20 as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

21       (2) To the extent possible within available funds, the child care  
22 coordinating committee shall:

23       (a) Serve as an advisory coordinator for all state agencies  
24 responsible for early childhood or child care programs for the purpose  
25 of improving communication and interagency coordination;

26       (b) Annually review state programs and make recommendations to the  
27 agencies and the legislature which will maximize funding and promote  
28 furtherance of the policies set forth in RCW 74.13.085. Reports shall  
29 be provided to all appropriate committees of the legislature by  
30 December 1 of each year. At a minimum the committee shall:

31       (i) Review and propose changes to the child care subsidy system in  
32 its December 1989 report;

33       (ii) Review alternative models for child care service systems, in  
34 the context of the policies set forth in RCW 74.13.085, and recommend  
35 to the legislature a new child care service structure; and

36       (iii) Review options and make recommendations on the feasibility of  
37 establishing an allocation for day care facilities when constructing  
38 state buildings;

1 (c) Review department of social and health services administration  
2 of the child care expansion grant program described in RCW 74.13.095;

3 (d) Review rules regarding child care facilities and services for  
4 the purpose of identifying those which unnecessarily obstruct the  
5 availability and

6 affordability of child care in the state;

7 (e) Advise and assist the office of child care policy in  
8 implementing his or her duties under RCW 74.13.0903;

9 (f) Perform other functions to improve the quantity and quality of  
10 child care in the state, including compliance with existing and future  
11 prerequisites for federal funding; and

12 (g) Advise and assist the department of personnel in its  
13 responsibility for establishing policies and procedures that provide  
14 for the development of quality child care programs for state employees.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The sum of seventy-five thousand dollars, or  
16 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for fiscal year  
17 1997, from the general fund to the legislative budget committee for the  
18 purposes of the study contract under section 2 of this act.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or  
20 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium  
21 ending June 30, 1997, from the general fund to the department of social  
22 and health services for the purposes of section 3 of this act.

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