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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1545**

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**State of Washington**

**58th Legislature**

**2003 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Children & Family Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Fromhold, Hinkle, Kagi, Kenney, Schual-Berke, Upthegrove, Chase, Cox, McDermott, Delvin, Cooper, Dickerson, Pettigrew, Hankins, Lantz, Quall, Conway, Rockefeller and Clements)

READ FIRST TIME 02/14/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to consolidation of early learning and child care  
2 programs and services in the state; adding a new chapter to Title 74  
3 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that:

6 (a) Early learning and child care are an essential part of the  
7 daily lives of Washington families;

8 (b) The state is involved in many early learning and child care  
9 programs and services that are administered through at least three  
10 state agencies;

11 (c) A more cohesive and integrated early learning and child care  
12 system would result in greater efficiencies for the state and greater  
13 accessibility for the families that the programs are intended to serve;  
14 and

15 (d) An effective system of governance would provide leadership,  
16 voice, and vision for early learning and child care in state  
17 government.

18 (2) The legislature finds that the early years of a child's life

1 are critical to the child's healthy brain development and that the  
2 quality of caregiving during the early years can significantly impact  
3 the child's intellectual and emotional growth and social adjustment.

4 (3) It is therefore the purpose of this chapter to initiate the  
5 development of a seamless statewide system of programs and services for  
6 early learning and child care that supports families in preparing for  
7 and maintaining children's success in school.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The governor and the superintendent of  
9 public instruction shall jointly consolidate and administer early  
10 learning and child care programs and services in the state by September  
11 1, 2007.

12 (1) For the purposes of this chapter, "early learning and child  
13 care programs and services" are limited to the following functions and  
14 entities:

15 (a) Child care quality investments administered by the division of  
16 child care and early learning in the department of social and health  
17 services;

18 (b) State training and registry system investments;

19 (c) Head start-state collaboration project;

20 (d) Statewide child care resource and referral network;

21 (e) Project even start;

22 (f) Child and adult care food program;

23 (g) Healthy child care Washington or its successor program;

24 (h) Special education for individuals from three to five years of  
25 age;

26 (i) Title 1, part C migrant education preschool set-aside;

27 (j) Licensing of child care centers and homes;

28 (k) Child care health inspections;

29 (l) Child care coordinating committee;

30 (m) All programs financed and contracted through the child care and  
31 development fund;

32 (n) All child care and early learning activities authorized under  
33 chapter 74.13 RCW;

34 (o) Working connections child care program;

35 (p) Seasonal child care;

36 (q) Teen parents child care;

37 (r) Homeless child care;

1 (s) Special needs child care;

2 (t) Activities funded through part C of the federal individuals  
3 with disabilities education act;

4 (u) Child care for inpatient alcohol and substance abuse treatment;  
5 and

6 (v) Early childhood education and assistance program.

7 (2) In consolidating and administering the early learning and child  
8 care programs and services in the state, it is the intent of the  
9 legislature that the governor and the superintendent of public  
10 instruction coordinate and collaborate with all federally funded early  
11 learning and child care programs and services operating in the state,  
12 such as head start, 21st century community learning centers, and after-  
13 school programs for children under thirteen years of age.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) There is established an early learning  
15 and care task force within the office of the superintendent of public  
16 instruction to oversee the consolidation of early learning and child  
17 care programs and services in the state. The task force shall be under  
18 the joint authority of the governor and the superintendent of public  
19 instruction. The focus of the task force shall be the identification  
20 of the most efficient system for the administration and fiscal  
21 management of early learning and child care programs and services in  
22 the state. In conducting its work, the task force shall seek  
23 involvement from families and community and stakeholder groups involved  
24 with early learning and child care programs and services throughout the  
25 state.

26 (2) It is intended that the membership of the task force include,  
27 but not be limited to, the following: (a) Individuals with expertise  
28 in the delivery of early learning and child care services in a school  
29 setting; (b) individuals with expertise in the delivery of early  
30 learning and child care services in both a nonprofit and for-profit  
31 licensed center and family home child care settings; (c) individuals  
32 who deliver early learning and child care programs and services,  
33 including representatives of state governmental agencies; and (d)  
34 individuals who are parents of children under thirteen years of age.

35 For the purposes of this subsection, "parent" includes a legal  
36 guardian or other person standing in loco parentis, such as a

1 grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is  
2 legally responsible for the welfare of the child.

3 (3) The task force shall consist of seventeen members as follows:

4 (a) Five members recommended by the child care coordinating  
5 committee, jointly appointed by the governor and the superintendent of  
6 public instruction;

7 (b) Four members appointed by the governor;

8 (c) Four members appointed by the superintendent of public  
9 instruction; and

10 (d) Four members of the legislature, one from each political caucus  
11 of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the  
12 house of representatives and one from each political caucus of the  
13 senate to be appointed by the president of the senate, each of whom  
14 shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the task force.

15 (4) The governor and the superintendent of public instruction shall  
16 each appoint a cochair of the task force from among its membership.  
17 Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the  
18 same manner as the original appointments.

19 (5) Nongovernmental members of the task force shall be reimbursed  
20 for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.  
21 Legislative members of the task force shall serve without additional  
22 compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance  
23 with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the task force or on  
24 official business authorized by the task force.

25 (6) Initial appointments to the task force shall be made no later  
26 than thirty days after the effective date of this section.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Duties of the early learning and care  
28 task force shall include, but not be limited to, development of the  
29 following:

30 (a) Consistent aligned standards for children entering school and  
31 for early learning and child care programs and services that address  
32 the multiple developmental aspects of young children, including  
33 cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical;

34 (b) An integrated system of staffing and professional development  
35 for early learning and child care programs and services;

36 (c) Comprehensive, family-focused services to be provided by early

1 learning and child care programs for children and families who need  
2 more intensive support;

3 (d) An integrated system of collaboration and support between early  
4 learning, child care, and after-school providers and the K-12 and  
5 higher education systems; and

6 (e) A plan to address barriers to consolidation, such as issues  
7 relating to facilities and transportation.

8 (2) The task force shall develop a plan for implementation of the  
9 duties provided in subsection (1) of this section.

10 (3) By September 1, 2004, the task force shall report to the  
11 legislature on the implementation plan.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The early learning and care task force  
13 shall develop a plan for the consolidation of the following functions  
14 and entities:

15 (a) Child care quality investments administered by the division of  
16 child care and early learning in the department of social and health  
17 services;

18 (b) State training and registry system investments;

19 (c) Head start-state collaboration project;

20 (d) Statewide child care resource and referral network;

21 (e) Project even start;

22 (f) Child and adult care food program;

23 (g) Healthy child care Washington or its successor program;

24 (h) Special education for individuals from three to five years of  
25 age; and

26 (i) Title 1, part C migrant education preschool set-aside.

27 (2) By January 1, 2004, the task force shall report to the  
28 legislature with the plan for consolidation of the functions and  
29 entities provided in subsection (1) of this section.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) By September 1, 2004, to the extent  
31 possible within available funds, the governor and the superintendent of  
32 public instruction shall implement the plan for consolidation developed  
33 by the early learning and care task force pursuant to section 5 of this  
34 act.

35 (2) By September 1, 2005, to the extent possible within available  
36 funds, the governor and the superintendent of public instruction shall

1 implement the plan developed by the early learning and care task force  
2 pursuant to section 4 of this act for the programs and services  
3 consolidated pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The early learning and care task force  
5 shall develop a plan for the consolidation of the following functions  
6 and entities:

- 7 (a) Licensing of child care centers and homes;
- 8 (b) Child care health inspections;
- 9 (c) Child care coordinating committee;
- 10 (d) All programs financed and contracted through the child care and  
11 development fund;
- 12 (e) All child care and early learning activities authorized under  
13 chapter 74.13 RCW;
- 14 (f) Working connections child care program;
- 15 (g) Seasonal child care;
- 16 (h) Teen parents child care;
- 17 (i) Homeless child care;
- 18 (j) Special needs child care;
- 19 (k) Activities funded through part C of the federal individuals  
20 with disabilities education act;
- 21 (l) Child care for inpatient alcohol and substance abuse treatment;  
22 and
- 23 (m) Early childhood education and assistance program.

24 (2) By September 1, 2006, the task force shall report to the  
25 legislature with the plan for consolidation of the functions and  
26 entities provided in subsection (1) of this section.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** By September 1, 2007, to the extent possible  
28 within available funds, the governor and the superintendent of public  
29 instruction shall:

- 30 (1) Implement the plan for consolidation developed by the early  
31 learning and care task force pursuant to section 7 of this act; and
- 32 (2) Implement the plan developed by the early learning and care  
33 task force pursuant to section 4 of this act for the programs and  
34 services consolidated pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 9.**   The early learning and care task force shall  
2   expire on October 1, 2006.

3        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 10.**   Sections 1 through 9 of this act constitute  
4   a new chapter in Title 74 RCW.

5        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 11.**   This act is necessary for the immediate  
6   preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
7   state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
8   immediately.

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