
SENATE BILL 5904

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Hill, Hargrove, Litzow, and Billig

Read first time 04/09/13. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to high quality early learning; reenacting and
2 amending RCW 43.215.405; adding new sections to chapter 43.215 RCW;
3 creating new sections; and recodifying RCW 43.215.141 and 43.215.142.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that high quality
6 early learning opportunities are an important factor in lifelong
7 success. The legislature is committed to expanding high quality
8 evidence-based early learning opportunities in order to improve
9 educational outcomes. The legislature further finds that moving toward
10 effective and research-based practices are critical in achieving
11 educational and societal outcomes from early learning investments. The
12 legislature intends to continue improvements in early learning through
13 ongoing evaluation, application of emerging research, and enhanced
14 quality assurance. It is the intent of the legislature that additional
15 investments in early learning will be based on current information
16 regarding the most efficient, research-based, and cost-effective
17 investments.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) During the 2013-2015 biennium, the
2 department of early learning shall increase enrollments in the early
3 learning program established in RCW 43.215.400 by ten percent from the
4 2011-2013 biennium enrollments, subject to the availability of amounts
5 appropriated for this specific purpose. Rates paid for early learning
6 program enrollments must also be increased by ten percent from the
7 2011-2013 biennium during the 2013-2015 biennium, subject to
8 availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose. The
9 department of early learning shall continue to review and evaluate the
10 contracts used to provide the early learning program to ensure the
11 contractors are operating research-based programs in a cost-effective
12 manner.

13 (2) The department of early learning, along with the office of
14 financial management, shall develop an implementation plan for
15 expanding the early learning program established in RCW 43.215.400,
16 which will include, at a minimum, the number of new enrollments to be
17 requested for each year, a detailed proposal for recruiting the
18 necessary contractors, and an oversight and evaluation design. The
19 department of early learning must deliver this implementation plan to
20 the appropriate committees of the legislature by September 30, 2013.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** During the 2013-2015 biennium, the
22 Washington state institute for public policy shall conduct a
23 comprehensive retrospective outcome evaluation and return on investment
24 analysis of the early childhood program established in RCW 43.215.400.
25 The evaluation must assess both short-term and long-term outcomes for
26 participants in the program, including educational and social outcomes.
27 The study must also report findings from a review of the research
28 evidence on components of successful early education program
29 strategies. The study must also include an examination of family
30 support services provided through early childhood programs. The
31 institute shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
32 legislature by December 15, 2014.

33 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.215.405 and 2010 c 231 s 7 are each reenacted and
34 amended to read as follows:

35 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in

1 this section apply throughout RCW 43.215.400 through 43.215.450,
2 43.215.141 (as recodified by this act), 43.215.142 (as recodified by
3 this act), and 43.215.900 through 43.215.903.

4 (1) "Advisory committee" means the advisory committee under RCW
5 43.215.420.

6 (2) "Approved programs" means those state-supported education and
7 special assistance programs which are recognized by the department as
8 meeting the minimum program rules adopted by the department to qualify
9 under RCW 43.215.400 through 43.215.450 and 43.215.900 through
10 43.215.903 and are designated as eligible for funding by the department
11 under RCW 43.215.430 and 43.215.440.

12 (3) "Comprehensive" means an assistance program that focuses on the
13 needs of the child and includes education, health, and family support
14 services.

15 (4) "Department" means the department of early learning.

16 (5) "Eligible child" means a child not eligible for kindergarten
17 whose family income is at or below one hundred ten percent of the
18 federal poverty level, as published annually by the federal department
19 of health and human services, and includes a child whose family is
20 eligible for public assistance, and who is not a participant in a
21 federal or state program providing comprehensive services; a child
22 eligible for special education due to disability under RCW 28A.155.020;
23 and may include children who are eligible under rules adopted by the
24 department if the number of such children equals not more than ten
25 percent of the total enrollment in the early childhood program.
26 Priority for enrollment shall be given to children from families with
27 the lowest income, children in foster care, or to eligible children
28 from families with multiple needs.

29 (6) "Family support services" means providing opportunities for
30 parents to:

- 31 (a) Actively participate in their child's early childhood program;
32 (b) Increase their knowledge of child development and parenting
33 skills;
34 (c) Further their education and training;
35 (d) Increase their ability to use needed services in the community;
36 (e) Increase their self-reliance.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.215.141 and 43.215.142 are each
2 recodified as sections under the subchapter heading "early childhood
3 education and assistance program" in chapter 43.215 RCW.

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