

**HB 1723-S - DIGEST**

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 2ND SUB)

Creates a legislative task force on early learning to review existing funding sources, program goals, and restrictions associated with different funding streams for early learning programs and services as identified by the technical working group.

Requires the department of early learning to: (1) Annually review rates for child care compared to market rates;

(2) Conduct an annual survey of staff compensation in certain programs using data generated by the managed education and registry information tool and the early achievers program;

(3) Increase the base slot rate for the Washington state preschool program to align with the average head start federal funding rate per child with the head start program slot rate;

(4) Increase the base rate for all child care providers by ten percent;

(5) Provide tiered subsidy rate enhancements to child care providers if the provider meets certain requirements;

(6) Require exempt providers to participate in continuing education; and

(7) Provide a ten percent increase in the working connections child care subsidy rate to those providers who accept children eligible for the subsidy.

Requires the legislature to: (1) Appropriate funding for the specific purpose of home visiting and parent and caregiver support; and

(2) Fund the expansion in the early childhood education and assistance program.