

HOUSE BILL REPORT

EHB 2861

As Passed House:
February 12, 2018

Title: An act relating to expanding the provision of trauma-informed child care.

Brief Description: Expanding the provision of trauma-informed child care.

Sponsors: Representatives Ortiz-Self, Lovick, Klippert, Kilduff, Kagi, Frame, Jenkins, Macri, Kloba, Pollet and Goodman.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Early Learning & Human Services: 1/31/18, 2/2/18 [DP].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 2/12/18, 70-27.

Brief Summary of Engrossed Bill

- Establishes an advisory group to develop a five-year strategy to expand training in trauma-informed child care and reduce child care expulsions.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & HUMAN SERVICES

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 10 members: Representatives Kagi, Chair; Senn, Vice Chair; Eslick, Frame, Goodman, Griffey, Klippert, Lovick, Muri and Ortiz-Self.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 2 members: Representatives Dent, Ranking Minority Member; McCaslin, Assistant Ranking Minority Member.

Staff: Dawn Eychaner (786-7135).

Background:

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are indicators of severe childhood stressors and family dysfunction experienced before the age of 18 that can negatively impact physical and behavioral health across the lifespan. The ACEs indicators include:

- child physical, sexual, or emotional abuse;

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- child emotional or physical neglect;
- alcohol or other substance abuse in the home;
- mental illness, depression, or suicidal behaviors in the home;
- incarceration of a family member;
- witnessing intimate partner violence; and
- parental divorce or separation.

An individual's ACEs score is the total sum of the different ACEs indicators experienced by that person during childhood and is used to assess cumulative childhood stress.

The Early Achievers program is a quality rating and improvement system administered by the Department of Early Learning (DEL) that provides a common set of standards by which to measure and improve the quality of early learning and child care. Early Achievers participants advance through program levels and are rated on a scale of 1 through 5 based on child outcomes, facility curriculum and learning environment, professional development, and family engagement and partnership.

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) was established in 2017 with the stated purpose of protecting children and youth from harm and promoting healthy development with effective, high quality prevention, intervention, and early education services delivered in an equitable manner. On July 1, 2018, all functions of the DEL will be integrated into the DCYF.

Summary of Engrossed Bill:

The DCYF must convene an advisory group to develop a five-year strategy to expand training in trauma-informed child care for early learning providers statewide and reduce expulsions from early learning environments. The five-year strategy must be delivered to the Governor and the Legislature by November 1, 2018.

Trauma-informed child care is defined as child care in which a provider recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in children, incorporates an understanding of trauma's impact and potential paths for recovery, and responds by integrating knowledge about trauma while seeking to avoid retraumatization.

The five-year strategy developed by the advisory group must include:

- delivery plans for training early learning providers and administrators in trauma-informed care;
- recommended changes to the Early Achievers program to better rate and support providers serving high-needs children;
- outreach plans for parents to expand awareness about the availability of trauma-informed child care;
- an analysis of all fund sources that may be used to fund elements of the five-year strategy;
- best practices for supporting family day care providers in the provision of trauma-informed child care;

- recommended child care center staffing ratios, requirements for access to specialty providers, and subsidy rates for providers specializing in trauma-informed child care; and
- systems for tracking child care expulsions and methods to reduce expulsions by 50 percent over five years.

The advisory group consists of the following members selected by the DCYF:

- one or more child psychologists;
- three child care providers with experience serving traumatized children, children with developmental disabilities, and racially diverse children;
- an expert on ACEs and impacts on child development;
- a provider of the Early Childhood Intervention and Prevention Services program;
- a representative of a nonprofit that provides quality improvement services to Early Achievers participants;
- a parent of a child with three or more ACEs;
- a representative of a nonprofit organization with expertise in developing social-emotional curricula for early learning environments;
- a representative of a union representing child care providers;
- a nonunion representative of child care providers; and
- a representative of a statewide organization representing Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program providers.

The bill expires on December 30, 2018.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) Kids who have been traumatized and have numerous ACEs are being expelled from early learning settings at a rate three times that of kindergarten through grade 12 expulsions. Providers do not have the resources they need in order to help traumatized kids. There is currently a gap and lack of standardized training statewide in trauma-informed care for providers. Seventy-five percent of kids expelled from early learning environments have disabilities with an underlying medical condition that needs to be addressed. This is intended to systemically address kids who come into child care with difficult behaviors. Providers are faced with putting other kids in care at risk or expelling the child exhibiting the behaviors. This advisory group will ensure that access to trauma-informed care isn't reliant on where someone lives or the resources someone has available to them.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: Representative Ortiz-Self, prime sponsor; Ramona Hattendorf, The Arc of King County; Melanie Smith, Wellspring Family Services; Ryan Pricco, Child Care Aware of Washington; and Alex Hur, Service Employees International Union 925.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.