
SENATE BILL 6464

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senators Zeiger, O'Ban, Saldaña, Dhingra, Palumbo, Hasegawa, and Miloscia

Read first time 01/18/18. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to studying the cliff effect in the working
2 connections child care program; creating a new section; and providing
3 an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that providing
6 assistance with child care payments can lead to healthier families
7 and greater success for the parent and child. The legislature also
8 finds that, when enrolled in working connections child care, a parent
9 may forsake or be unable to seek advancement or promotion at their
10 job because exceeding designated income thresholds results in a
11 reduced subsidy. The legislature recognizes the importance of
12 advancement and growth within a profession and seeks to avoid
13 situations where a parent receiving child care subsidies cannot
14 afford to accept or seek career advancement and development.

15 (2) Accordingly, the department of children, youth, and families
16 shall contract with the Washington state institute for public policy
17 to complete an analysis regarding how to address and mitigate the
18 "cliff effect" in the working connections child care program and
19 child care subsidy program. By December 1, 2018, the Washington state
20 institute for public policy shall analyze the working connections

1 copay calculation table and working connections child care program
2 and issue a report on the following:

3 (a) How to further develop and implement a sliding scale or
4 tiered reimbursement and phase-out model that works for both
5 consumers and providers and provides incentives for quality child
6 care across communities;

7 (b) Whether or not increasing or decreasing the eligibility
8 threshold for working connections child care would allow parents to
9 grow professionally without losing affordable child care;

10 (c) Whether further graduation of the copay scale would help
11 alleviate the cliff that occurs at subsidy cut off;

12 (d) Whether or not adding mental health, substance use, and other
13 client-centered exemptions to the temporary assistance for needy
14 families lifetime sixty month cap would help mitigate the cliff
15 effect; and

16 (e) Needed administrative improvements and structural changes to
17 the payment system.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act takes effect July 1, 2018.

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