
SENATE BILL 5023

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Wilson, C., Saldaña, Billig, Darneille, Das, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Keiser, Kuderer, Lias, Lovelett, Nguyen, Pedersen, Robinson, Salomon, and Stanford

Prefiled 12/17/20. Read first time 01/11/21. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to working connections child care eligibility and
2 unemployment benefits; amending RCW 43.216.137; creating new
3 sections; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that child care is a
6 critically important service to the economic recovery and future of
7 Washington state. The legislature acknowledges that access to child
8 care is essential for Washington families to be able to return to
9 work. The legislature therefore resolves to increase access to
10 employment and to facilitate statewide economic recovery by ensuring
11 that temporary federal unemployment benefits do not disrupt
12 continuity of care for families seeking work.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.216.137 and 2011 c 4 s 17 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) For the working connections child care program, the
16 department shall not count the twenty-five dollar increase paid as
17 part of an individual's weekly benefit amount as provided in RCW
18 50.20.1202 when determining a consumer's income eligibility and
19 copayment.

1 (2) For the working connections child care program, the
2 department shall not count any of the following when determining a
3 consumer's income eligibility and copayment:

4 (a) Federal pandemic unemployment compensation under 15 U.S.C.
5 Sec. 9023(b) (1) (B) or any extension of those benefits;

6 (b) Federal benefits provided under the lost wages assistance
7 program provided under the President of the United States' memoranda
8 issued on August 8, 2020; or

9 (c) Similar federally funded programs as determined in rule
10 adopted by the department in consultation with the employment
11 security department.

12 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. If any part of this act is found to be in
13 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to
14 the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of
15 this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with
16 respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not
17 affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application
18 to the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet
19 federal requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of
20 federal funds by the state.

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. This act is necessary for the immediate
22 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
23 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
24 effect immediately.

--- END ---