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ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1545

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State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Fromhold, Hinkle, Kagi, Kenney, Schual-Berke, Upthegrove, Chase, Cox, McDermott, Delvin, Cooper, Dickerson, Pettigrew, Hankins, Lantz, Quall, Conway, Rockefeller and Clements)

READ FIRST TIME 03/10/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to consolidation of early learning and child care  
2 programs and services in the state; adding a new chapter to Title 74  
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that:

6 (a) Early learning and child care are an essential part of the  
7 daily lives of Washington families;

8 (b) The state is involved in many early learning and child care  
9 programs and services that are administered through at least three  
10 state agencies;

11 (c) A more cohesive and integrated early learning and child care  
12 system would result in greater efficiencies for the state and greater  
13 accessibility for the families that the programs are intended to serve;  
14 and

15 (d) An effective system of governance would provide leadership,  
16 voice, and vision for early learning and child care in state  
17 government.

1 (2) The legislature finds that the early years of a child's life  
2 are critical to the child's healthy brain development and that the  
3 quality of caregiving during the early years can significantly impact  
4 the child's intellectual and emotional growth and social adjustment.

5 (3) It is therefore the purpose of this chapter to initiate the  
6 development of a seamless statewide system of programs and services.  
7 This system is not intended to impose any learning goals or program  
8 standards on families not associated with or partaking of the programs  
9 and services identified in this act, but rather is meant to provide  
10 support to families in preparing for and maintaining children's success  
11 in school.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The governor and the superintendent of  
13 public instruction shall coordinate the administration of early  
14 learning and child care programs and services in the state.

15 (1) For the purposes of this chapter, "early learning and child  
16 care programs and services" are limited to the following functions and  
17 entities:

- 18 (a) State training and registry system investments;
- 19 (b) State head start collaboration project;
- 20 (c) Title 1B - Even Start Family Literacy Program;
- 21 (d) Child and adult care food program;
- 22 (e) IDEA part B special education for children three to five years  
23 of age;
- 24 (f) IDEA part C early intervention for children birth through two  
25 years of age;
- 26 (g) Title 1, part C migrant education preschool program;
- 27 (h) Licensing of child care centers and homes;
- 28 (i) Child care health inspections;
- 29 (j) All programs financed and contracted through the child care  
30 development fund;
- 31 (k) All child care and early learning activities authorized under  
32 chapter 74.13 RCW;
- 33 (l) All state child care subsidy programs; and
- 34 (m) Early childhood education and assistance program.

35 (2) In administering the early learning and child care programs and  
36 services in the state, it is the intent of the legislature that the  
37 governor and the superintendent of public instruction coordinate and

1 collaborate with all federally funded early learning and child care  
2 programs and services operating in the state, such as head start, 21st  
3 century community learning centers, early learning and child care  
4 programs funded under the no child left behind act, and before/after  
5 school programs for children under thirteen years of age.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) There is established an early learning  
7 and child care task force within the office of the superintendent of  
8 public instruction to oversee the coordination of early learning and  
9 child care programs and services in the state. The task force shall be  
10 under the joint authority of the governor and the superintendent of  
11 public instruction. The focus of the task force shall be the  
12 identification of the most efficient system for the administration and  
13 fiscal management of early learning and child care programs and  
14 services in the state, including the consolidation of functions and  
15 entities of the programs listed in section 1, as appropriate. In  
16 conducting its work, the task force shall seek involvement from  
17 families, schools, community, and stakeholder groups involved with  
18 early learning and child care programs and services throughout the  
19 state.

20 (2) It is intended that the membership of the task force include,  
21 but not be limited to, the following: (a) Individuals with expertise  
22 in the design and delivery of early learning and child care services in  
23 a school setting; (b) individuals with expertise in the design and  
24 delivery of early learning and child care services in both a nonprofit  
25 and for-profit licensed center and family home child care settings; (c)  
26 individuals who design and deliver early learning and child care  
27 programs and services, including representatives of higher education  
28 and state governmental agencies; and (d) individuals who are parents of  
29 children under thirteen years of age.

30 For the purposes of this subsection, "parent" includes a legal  
31 guardian or other person standing in loco parentis, such as a  
32 grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is  
33 legally responsible for the welfare of the child.

34 (3) The task force shall consist of seventeen members as follows:

35 (a) Five members recommended by the child care coordinating  
36 committee, jointly appointed by the governor and the superintendent of  
37 public instruction;

1 (b) Four members appointed by the governor;

2 (c) Four members appointed by the superintendent of public  
3 instruction; and

4 (d) Four members of the legislature, one from each political caucus  
5 of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the  
6 house of representatives and one from each political caucus of the  
7 senate to be appointed by the president of the senate, each of whom  
8 shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the task force.

9 (4) The governor and the superintendent of public instruction shall  
10 each appoint a cochair of the task force from among its membership.  
11 Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the  
12 same manner as the original appointments.

13 (5) Nongovernmental members of the task force shall be reimbursed  
14 for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.  
15 Legislative members of the task force shall serve without additional  
16 compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance  
17 with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the task force or on  
18 official business authorized by the task force.

19 (6) Initial appointments to the task force shall be made no later  
20 than thirty days after the effective date of this section.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The governor and the superintendent of  
22 public instruction, in consultation with the early learning and child  
23 care task force, shall carry out the following tasks:

24 (a) Creation of consistent aligned early learning goals for  
25 children younger than school age that address the multiple  
26 developmental aspects of young children, including cognitive,  
27 linguistic, social, emotional, and physical domains that are aligned  
28 with K-12 standards;

29 (b) Creation of consistent alignment among different program  
30 standards for early learning programs and services;

31 (c) Design of an integrated system of staffing and professional  
32 development for early learning and child care programs and services;

33 (d) Identification of comprehensive, family-focused services to be  
34 provided by early learning and child care programs for children and  
35 families who need more intensive support;

36 (e) Design of a plan to address barriers to the provision of early

1 learning and child care services, such as issues relating to facilities  
2 and transportation; and

3 (f) Develop recommendations to improve collaboration and  
4 integration between the early learning and child care system and the K-  
5 12 and higher education system.

6 (2) The governor and the superintendent of public instruction, in  
7 consultation with the early learning and child care task force, shall  
8 develop a plan for implementation of the duties provided in subsection  
9 (1) of this section, and shall report that plan to the legislature by  
10 January 1, 2004.

11 (3) By September 1, 2004, the governor and the superintendent of  
12 public instruction shall report to the legislature on the  
13 implementation of the consistent aligned early learning goals in  
14 subsection (1)(a) of this section. In carrying out the development of  
15 these goals, the governor and the superintendent of public instruction  
16 shall consult broadly with individuals and representatives of  
17 individuals described in section 3(2) of this act, and assure the  
18 involvement of the broad constituencies representing child care, early  
19 learning, and educational interests in the state.

20 (4) By September 1, 2005, the governor and the superintendent of  
21 public instruction shall report to the legislature on the  
22 implementation of the duties provided in subsection (1)(b) through (e)  
23 of this section.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The early learning and child care task  
25 force shall develop a plan for coordination of the functions and  
26 entities listed in section 2 of this act, and shall include planning  
27 for consolidation of functions and entities, as appropriate. The early  
28 learning and child care task force shall present the plan to the  
29 governor and the superintendent of public instruction by December 15,  
30 2003.

31 (2) By January 1, 2004, the governor and the superintendent of  
32 public instruction shall report to the legislature the plan for  
33 coordination of the functions and entities provided in subsection (1)  
34 of this section.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** By January 2005, to the extent possible  
36 within available funds, the governor and the superintendent of public

1 instruction shall implement the plan for coordination pursuant to  
2 section 4(2) of this act. The governor and the superintendent of  
3 public instruction shall report to the legislature on the  
4 implementation of the plan.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The early learning and child care task force  
6 shall expire October 1, 2005.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act constitute  
8 a new chapter in Title 74 RCW.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
10 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
11 June 30, 2003, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
12 void.

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