
HOUSE BILL 1545

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

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 01/29/2003. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

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 declaring an emergency.

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 important 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 five state
10 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.

18 (2) The legislature finds that the early years of a child's life

1 are critical to the child's healthy brain development and that the
2 quality of caregiving during the early years can significantly impact
3 the child's intellectual and emotional growth and social adjustment.

4 (3) It is therefore the purpose of this chapter to initiate the
5 development of a seamless statewide system of programs and services for
6 early learning and child care that supports families in preparing
7 children to be successful in school.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The governor and superintendent of public
9 instruction shall jointly consolidate and administer early learning and
10 child care programs and services in the state by September 1, 2007.

11 For the purposes of this chapter, "early learning and child care
12 programs and services" are limited to the following:

- 13 (1) State training and registry system;
- 14 (2) Child care quality investments administered by the division of
15 child care and early learning in the department of social and health
16 services, including recruitment and retention contracts, state training
17 and registry system investments, and child care access contracts;
- 18 (3) Head start-state collaboration project;
- 19 (4) Interagency BrainNet;
- 20 (5) Project even start;
- 21 (6) Child and adult care food program;
- 22 (7) Special education for individuals from three to five years of
23 age;
- 24 (8) Child nutrition program;
- 25 (9) Migrant education program;
- 26 (10) Licensing of child care centers and homes;
- 27 (11) Child care health inspections;
- 28 (12) Child care coordinating committee;
- 29 (13) Child care and development fund;
- 30 (14) Child care partnership program;
- 31 (15) Working connections child care program;
- 32 (16) Seasonal child care;
- 33 (17) Teen parents child care;
- 34 (18) Homeless child care;
- 35 (19) Special needs child care;
- 36 (20) Infant/toddler early intervention program;

- 1 (21) Child care for inpatient alcohol and substance abuse
- 2 treatment;
- 3 (22) Early childhood education and assistance program;
- 4 (23) Head start;
- 5 (24) Early care and education apprenticeship program; and
- 6 (25) Child care programs administered by community and technical
- 7 colleges in the state.

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

18 (2) It is intended that the membership of the task force include
19 the following: (a) Individuals with expertise in the delivery of early
20 learning and child care services in a school setting; (b) individuals
21 with expertise in the delivery of early learning and child care
22 services in both a nonprofit and for-profit community setting; (c)
23 individuals representing state governmental agencies that administer or
24 deliver early learning and child care programs and services; and (d)
25 individuals who are parents of young children in the state.

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

27 (a) Five members recommended by the child care coordinating
28 committee, jointly appointed by the governor and the superintendent of
29 public instruction;

30 (b) Four members appointed by the governor;

31 (c) Four members appointed by the superintendent of public
32 instruction; and

33 (d) Four members of the legislature, one from each political caucus
34 of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the
35 house of representatives and one from each political caucus of the
36 senate to be appointed by the president of the senate, each of whom
37 shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the task force.

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

5 (5) Nongovernmental members of the task force shall be reimbursed
6 for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.
7 Legislative members of the task force shall serve without additional
8 compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance
9 with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the council or on
10 official business authorized by the council.

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

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Duties of the early learning and care
14 task force shall include, but not be limited to, development of the
15 following:

16 (a) Consistent aligned standards for children entering school that
17 address the multiple developmental aspects of young children, including
18 cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical;

19 (b) An integrated system of staffing and professional development
20 for early learning and child care programs and services;

21 (c) Comprehensive, family-focused services to be provided by early
22 learning and child care programs for children and families who need
23 more intensive support; and

24 (d) A system of coordination and collaboration between early
25 learning and child care providers and the K-12 and higher education
26 systems.

27 (2) The task force shall develop a plan for implementation of the
28 duties provided in subsection (1) of this section.

29 (3) By September 1, 2004, the task force shall report to the
30 legislature on the implementation plan.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The early learning and care task force
32 shall develop a plan for the consolidation of the following functions
33 and entities:

34 (a) State training and registry system;

35 (b) Child care quality investments administered by the division of

1 child care and early learning in the department of social and health
2 services, including recruitment and retention contracts, state training
3 and registry system investments, and child care access contracts;

4 (c) Head start-state collaboration project;

5 (d) Interagency BrainNet;

6 (e) Project even start;

7 (f) Child and adult care food program;

8 (g) Special education for individuals from three to five years of
9 age;

10 (h) Child nutrition program; and

11 (i) Migrant education program.

12 (2) By January 1, 2004, the task force shall report to the
13 legislature with the plan for consolidation of the functions and
14 entities provided in subsection (1) of this section.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) By September 1, 2004, to the extent
16 possible within available funds, the governor and the superintendent of
17 public instruction shall implement the plan for consolidation developed
18 by the early learning and care task force pursuant to section 5 of this
19 act.

20 (2) By September 1, 2005, to the extent possible within available
21 funds, the governor and superintendent of public instruction shall
22 implement the plan developed by the early learning and care task force
23 pursuant to section 4 of this act for the programs and services
24 consolidated pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The early learning and care task force
26 shall develop a plan for the consolidation of the following functions
27 and entities:

28 (a) Licensing of child care centers and homes;

29 (b) Child care health inspections;

30 (c) Child care coordinating committee;

31 (d) Child care and development fund;

32 (e) Child care partnership program;

33 (f) Working connections child care program;

34 (g) Seasonal child care;

35 (h) Teen parents child care;

36 (i) Homeless child care;

- 1 (j) Special needs child care;
- 2 (k) Infant/toddler early intervention program;
- 3 (l) Child care for inpatient alcohol and substance abuse treatment;
- 4 (m) Early childhood education and assistance program;
- 5 (n) Head start;
- 6 (o) Early care and education apprenticeship program; and
- 7 (p) Child care programs administered by community and technical
- 8 colleges in the state.

9 (2) By September 1, 2006, the task force shall report to the
10 legislature with the plan for consolidation of the functions and
11 entities provided in subsection (1) of this section.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** By September 1, 2007, to the extent possible
13 within available funds, the governor and the superintendent of public
14 instruction shall:

15 (1) Implement the plan for consolidation developed by the early
16 learning and care task force pursuant to section 7 of this act; and

17 (2) Implement the plan developed by the early learning and care
18 task force pursuant to section 4 of this act for the programs and
19 services consolidated pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** The early learning and care task force shall
21 expire on October 1, 2006.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 9 of this act constitute
23 a new chapter in Title 74 RCW.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** This act is necessary for the immediate
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
26 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
27 immediately.

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