CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1152

Chapter 490, Laws of 2005

59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

EARLY LEARNING COUNCIL

EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/16/05

Passed by the House April 19, 2005 Yeas 77 Nays 21

FRANK CHOPP

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate April 14, 2005 Yeas 30 Nays 16

BRAD OWEN

President of the Senate

Approved May 16, 2005.

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1152** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

RICHARD NAFZIGER

Chief Clerk

FILED

May 16, 2005 - 2:51 p.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

Governor of the State of Washington

Secretary of State State of Washington

ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1152

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2005 Regular Session

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Kagi, Fromhold, Jarrett, Schual-Berke, Walsh, Quall, B. Sullivan, Grant, Ormsby, Kessler, Simpson, Moeller, Lovick, Roberts, Chase, Williams, P. Sullivan, Tom, Morrell, McIntire, Kenney, Haigh, McDermott, Dickerson, Santos and Linville)

READ FIRST TIME 02/24/05.

AN ACT Relating to early learning; amending RCW 28B.135.030, 41.04.385, and 74.13.0903; reenacting and amending RCW 74.15.030; adding a new section to chapter 74.15 RCW; creating new sections; repealing RCW 74.13.090 and 74.13.0901; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

7 **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that parents are their NEW SECTION. 8 children's first and most important teachers, caregivers, and decision makers. The legislature also recognizes that many parents are employed 9 10 or in school and must seek services in their communities to assist with the care and support of their children. 11 Welfare reform requires 12 parents with low incomes to enter the work force while their children are young, increasing parents' need for the support of such resources. 13 14 In seeking out resources in their communities to provide care and support for their children, parents throughout the state need and 15 deserve to have the best possible information to help inform their 16 choices about the care and education of their children. 17

18 The legislature also finds that research on brain development in 19 young children establishes that early experiences are important to

1 children's emotional, social, physical, and cognitive development.
2 Research also shows a clear and compelling connection between the
3 quality of children's early childhood care and education experiences
4 and later success in school and in life.

The legislature intends to build on the efforts of communities 5 across the state to improve the quality of early learning environments 6 7 available to children and their families, as well as the information available to families relating to those early learning environments. 8 The legislature recognizes that efforts to improve early learning must 9 build upon existing partnerships between the public and private 10 The experiences and resources of both public and private 11 sectors. entities are essential to making meaningful and lasting improvements in 12 the quality of early learning environments across the state. Statewide 13 leadership is needed to quide and support the efforts of the private 14 and public sectors working together to make systemwide improvements in 15 16 the quality, affordability, and accessibility of early learning 17 opportunities.

18 The legislature intends to establish an effective oversight body, 19 composed of representation from the public and private sectors, to 20 provide leadership and vision to strengthen the quality of early 21 learning services and programs for all children and families in the 22 state and to ensure that children enter school ready to succeed.

23 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply 24 throughout sections 1 through 6 of this act unless the context clearly 25 requires otherwise.

(1) "Early learning programs and services" include the following:
 Child care; state, private, and nonprofit preschool programs; child
 care subsidy programs; and training and professional development
 programs for early learning professionals.

30

(2) "Council" means the Washington early learning council.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) The Washington early learning council is established in the governor's office. The purpose of the council is to provide vision, leadership, and direction to the improvement, realignment, and expansion of early learning programs and services for children birth to five years of age in order to better meet the early learning needs of children and their families. The goal of the council

1 is to build upon existing efforts and recommend new initiatives, as 2 necessary, to create an adequately financed, high-quality, accessible, 3 and comprehensive early learning system that benefits all young 4 children whose parents choose it.

5 (2) The council shall develop an early learning plan to improve the 6 organization of early learning programs and services at the state 7 level, and to improve the accessibility and quality of early learning 8 programs and services throughout the state.

9 (a) By November 15, 2005, the council shall make recommendations to 10 the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature 11 concerning statewide organization of early learning.

(b) The council shall also make recommendations to the governor andthe appropriate committees of the legislature concerning the following:

14 (i) Identification of current populations being served and 15 potential populations to be served by early learning programs and 16 services;

17 (ii) The state's role in supporting quality early learning programs 18 and services;

(iii) Appropriate levels and sources of stable and sustainable funding to meet statewide and local need for early learning programs and services, including public-private partnerships;

(iv) Changes in existing early learning programs and services, including the administration of those programs and services, to improve their efficiency, effectiveness, and quality;

(v) Changes in existing early learning programs and services to ensure that the content is aligned with what children need to know and be able to do upon entering school;

28 (vi) How to maximize available early learning resources to ensure 29 children are receiving continuity of care; and

30 (vii) Providing for smooth transitions from early learning programs31 and services to K-12 programs.

32 (c) As provided in sections 5 and 6 of this act, the council shall 33 focus on quality improvements to licensed child care through the 34 following mechanisms:

(i) A voluntary, quality-based, graduated rating system to provide
 information to parents on the quality of child care programs and to
 provide resources and incentives for quality improvements; and

(ii) A tiered-reimbursement system for state-subsidized child care
 to improve the quality of care for children participating in state funded care.

4 (d) The council shall make recommendations to the governor and the 5 appropriate committees of the legislature concerning the regulation of 6 child care, including child care that is exempt from regulation and 7 unlicensed child care that is subject to regulation, in order to ensure 8 the safety, health, quality, and accessibility of child care services 9 throughout the state.

10 (3) The council shall serve as the advisory committee on early 11 learning to the comprehensive education study steering committee, 12 created in Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5441. The 13 nongovernmental cochair of the council shall serve as the chair of the 14 advisory committee on early learning. The council shall have input on 15 the recommendations developed by the comprehensive education study 16 steering committee.

17 (4) The council shall make use of existing reports, research, planning efforts, and programs, including, but not limited to, the 18 following: The federal early head start program, the federal head 19 start program, the state early childhood education and assistance 20 21 program, the state's essential academic learning requirements and K-3 22 grade level expectations, the Washington state early learning and development benchmarks, existing tiered-reimbursement initiatives, the 23 24 state's early childhood comprehensive systems plan, and the work of the 25 child care coordinating committee established pursuant to RCW 74.13.090. 26

27 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 4. (1) The council shall include representation 28 from public, nonprofit, and for-profit entities, and its membership 29 shall reflect regional, racial, and cultural diversity to ensure 30 representation of the needs of all children and families in the state.

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(2) The council shall consist of seventeen members, as follows:

32 (a) One representative each of the governor's office, the 33 department of social and health services, the department of health, and 34 the state board for community and technical colleges, appointed by the 35 governor;

(b) One representative of the office of superintendent of publicinstruction, appointed by the superintendent of public instruction;

(c) Two representatives of private business and two representatives
 of philanthropy, appointed by the governor;

3 (d) Four individuals who have demonstrated leadership and
4 engagement in the field of early learning, appointed by the governor;
5 and

6 (e) Two members of the house of representatives appointed by the 7 speaker of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be a member 8 of the majority caucus and one of whom shall be a member of the 9 minority caucus, and two members of the senate appointed by the 10 president of the senate, one of whom shall be a member of the majority 11 caucus and one of whom shall be a member of the minority caucus.

12 (3) The council shall be cochaired by the representative of the 13 governor's office and a nongovernmental member designated by the 14 governor.

15 (4) Members of the council shall be compensated in accordance with 16 RCW 43.03.240 and shall be reimbursed for travel expenses as provided 17 in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

18 (5) The governor may employ an executive director, who is exempt 19 from the provisions of chapter 41.06 RCW, and such other staff as is 20 necessary to carry out the purposes of sections 1 through 6 of this 21 act. The governor pursuant to RCW 43.03.040 shall fix the salary of 22 the executive director.

(6) The council shall monitor and measure its progress and regularly report, as appropriate, to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the council.

27 (7) The council shall establish one or more technical advisory committees, as needed. Membership of such advisory committees may 28 include the following: Representatives of any state agency the council 29 deems appropriate, including the higher education coordinating board 30 and the state board for community and technical colleges; family home 31 32 child care providers, child care center providers, and college or university child care providers; parents; early childhood development 33 experts; representatives of school districts and teachers involved in 34 the provision of child care and preschool programs; representatives of 35 resource and referral programs; parent education specialists; pediatric 36 37 or other health professionals; representatives of citizen groups 38 concerned with child care and early learning; representatives of labor

organizations; representatives of private business; and representatives
of head start and early childhood education assistance program
agencies.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 5. (1) The council shall develop a voluntary, 4 quality-based, graduated rating system consisting of levels of quality 5 to be achieved by licensed child care providers serving children and 6 7 families in the state. The purpose of the rating system is to provide families with vital information about the quality of early learning 8 programs available to them and to increase the quality of early 9 learning programs operating throughout the state. In developing the 10 11 voluntary rating system, the council shall seek to build upon existing partnerships and initiate new partnerships between the public and 12 private sectors. 13

14 (2) In developing the voluntary rating system, the council shall 15 establish a system of tiers as the basis for the rating system's levels 16 of quality. In developing the system of tiers, the council shall take 17 into consideration the following quality criteria:

- 18 (a) Child-to-staff ratios;
- 19 (b) Group size;
- 20 (c) Learning environment, including staff and child interactions;
- 21 (d) Curriculum;
- 22 (e) Parent and family involvement and support;
- 23 (f) Staff qualifications and training;
- 24 (g) Staff professional development;
- 25 (h) Staff compensation;
- 26 (i) Staff stability;
- 27 (j) Accreditation;
- 28 (k) Program evaluation; and
- 29 (1) Program administrative policies and procedures.
- 30 (3) In developing the voluntary rating system, the council shall 31 establish quality assurance measures as well as a mechanism for system 32 evaluation.
- 33 (4) In developing the voluntary rating system, the council shall 34 make recommendations concerning both initial and subsequent statewide 35 implementation of the rating system, including the following:
- 36 (a) Potential implementing entities;
- 37 (b) Sources of funding for implementation;

(c) Necessary infrastructure for facilitating and supporting
 participation in the rating system, including assistance necessary to
 help providers progress up the tiers; and

(d) Strategies for raising public awareness of the rating system.

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5 (5) The council shall complete initial development of the voluntary 6 rating system by December 1, 2005, and complete development by December 7 1, 2006.

8 (6) The council shall submit the voluntary rating system to the 9 governor and the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the 10 legislature by January 1, 2007. If no action is taken by the 11 legislature by the end of the 2007 regular legislative session, the 12 council may begin initial implementation of the voluntary rating 13 system, subject to available funding.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. (1) The council shall develop a tieredreimbursement system that provides higher rates of reimbursement for state-subsidized child care for licensed child care providers that achieve one or more levels of quality above basic licensing requirements in accordance with the voluntary quality-based graduated rating system developed pursuant to section 5 of this act.

(2) In developing the tiered-reimbursement system, the council
 shall review existing tiered-reimbursement initiatives in the state and
 integrate those initiatives into the tiered-reimbursement system.

(3) The council shall complete initial development of the tieredreimbursement system by December 1, 2005, to be implemented in two pilot sites in different geographic regions of the state with demonstrated public-private partnerships. The council shall complete development of the tiered-reimbursement system by December 1, 2006, to be implemented statewide, subject to the availability of amounts appropriated by the legislature for this specific purpose.

30 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 7. A new section is added to chapter 74.15 RCW 31 to read as follows:

(1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
specific purpose, the department of social and health services shall
implement the tiered-reimbursement system developed pursuant to section
of this act. Implementation of the tiered-reimbursement system shall

initially consist of two pilot sites in different geographic regions of the state with demonstrated public-private partnerships, with statewide implementation to follow.

4 (2) In implementing the tiered-reimbursement system, consideration
5 shall be given to child care providers who provide staff wage
6 progression.

7 (3) The department shall begin implementation of the two pilot8 sites by March 30, 2006.

9 Sec. 8. RCW 28B.135.030 and 1999 c 375 s 3 are each amended to 10 read as follows:

11 The higher education coordinating board shall administer the program for four-year institutions of higher education. 12 The state board for community and technical colleges shall administer the program 13 for community and technical colleges. The higher 14 education coordinating board and the state board for community and technical 15 16 colleges shall have the following powers and duties in administering 17 each program:

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(1) To adopt rules necessary to carry out the program;

19 (2) To establish one or more review committees to assist in the 20 evaluation of proposals for funding. The review committee shall 21 include but not be limited to individuals from the Washington 22 association for the education of young children((, the child care 23 coordinating committee,)) and the child care resource and referral 24 network;

(3) To establish each biennium specific guidelines for submitting 25 26 grant proposals consistent with the overall goals of the program. 27 During the 1999-2001 biennium the guidelines shall be consistent with the following desired outcomes of increasing access to child care for 28 students, addressing the demand for infant and toddler care, providing 29 30 affordable child care alternatives, creating more cooperative preschool 31 programs, creating models that can be replicated at other institutions, creating a partnership between university or college administrations 32 33 and student government, or its equivalent and increasing efficiency and innovation at campus child care centers; 34

35 (4) To establish guidelines for an allocation system based on 36 factors that include but are not limited to: The amount of money

1 available in the trust fund; characteristics of the institutions 2 including the size of the faculty and student body; and the number of 3 child care grants received;

4 (5) To solicit grant proposals and provide information to the 5 institutions of higher education about the program; and

6 (6) To establish reporting, evaluation, accountability, monitoring,
7 and dissemination requirements for the recipients of the grants.

8 **Sec. 9.** RCW 41.04.385 and 2002 c 354 s 236 are each amended to 9 read as follows:

10 The legislature finds that (1) demographic, economic, and social trends underlie a critical and increasing demand for child care in the 11 12 state of Washington; (2) working parents and their children benefit when the employees' child care needs have been resolved; (3) the state 13 of Washington should serve as a model employer by creating a supportive 14 atmosphere, to the extent feasible, in which its employees may meet 15 16 their child care needs; and (4) the state of Washington should 17 encourage the development of partnerships between state agencies, state employees, state employee labor organizations, and private employers to 18 expand the availability of affordable quality child care. 19 The 20 legislature finds further that resolving employee child care concerns 21 not only benefits the employees and their children, but may benefit the employer by reducing absenteeism, increasing employee productivity, 22 23 improving morale, and enhancing the employer's position in recruiting 24 and retaining employees. Therefore, the legislature declares that it is the policy of the state of Washington to assist state employees by 25 26 creating a supportive atmosphere in which they may meet their child 27 Policies and procedures for state agencies to address care needs. employee child care needs will be the responsibility of the director of 28 29 personnel in consultation with ((the child care coordinating committee, 30 as provided in RCW 74.13.090, and)) state employee representatives.

31 **Sec. 10.** RCW 74.13.0903 and 1997 c 58 s 404 are each amended to 32 read as follows:

The office of child care policy is established to operate under the authority of the department of social and health services. The duties and responsibilities of the office include, but are not limited to, the following, within appropriated funds:

(1) ((Staff and assist the child care coordinating committee in the
 implementation of its duties under RCW 74.13.090;

3 (2)) Work in conjunction with the statewide child care resource 4 and referral network as well as local governments, nonprofit 5 organizations, businesses, and community child care advocates to create 6 local child care resource and referral organizations. These 7 organizations may carry out needs assessments, resource development, 8 provider training, technical assistance, and parent information and 9 training;

10 (((3))) (2) Actively seek public and private money for distribution 11 as grants to the statewide child care resource and referral network and 12 to existing or potential local child care resource and referral 13 organizations;

14 (((4))) <u>(3)</u> Adopt rules regarding the application for and 15 distribution of grants to local child care resource and referral 16 organizations. The rules shall, at a minimum, require an applicant to 17 submit a plan for achieving the following objectives:

(a) Provide parents with information about child care resources,including location of services and subsidies;

20 (b) Carry out child care provider recruitment and training 21 programs, including training under RCW 74.25.040;

(c) Offer support services, such as parent and provider seminars,
 toy-lending libraries, and substitute banks;

24 (d) Provide information for businesses regarding child care supply25 and demand;

26 (e) Advocate for increased public and private sector resources 27 devoted to child care;

28 (f) Provide technical assistance to employers regarding employee 29 child care services; and

30 (g) Serve recipients of temporary assistance for needy families and 31 working parents with incomes at or below household incomes of one 32 hundred seventy-five percent of the federal poverty line;

33 (((5))) <u>(4)</u> Provide staff support and technical assistance to the 34 statewide child care resource and referral network and local child care 35 resource and referral organizations;

36 (((-6))) (5) Maintain a statewide child care licensing data bank and 37 work with department of social and health services licensors to provide information to local child care resource and referral organizations
 about licensed child care providers in the state;

3 (((7))) (6) Through the statewide child care resource and referral 4 network and local resource and referral organizations, compile data 5 about local child care needs and availability for future planning and 6 development;

7 (((8))) <u>(7)</u> Coordinate with the statewide child care resource and 8 referral network and local child care resource and referral 9 organizations for the provision of training and technical assistance to 10 child care providers; and

11 (((9))) <u>(8)</u> Collect and assemble information regarding the 12 availability of insurance and of federal and other child care funding 13 to assist state and local agencies, businesses, and other child care 14 providers in offering child care services.

15 Sec. 11. RCW 74.15.030 and 2000 c 162 s 20 and 2000 c 122 s 40 are 16 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

17 The secretary shall have the power and it shall be the secretary's 18 duty:

In consultation with the children's services advisory 19 (1)20 committee, and with the advice and assistance of persons representative 21 of the various type agencies to be licensed, to designate categories of facilities for which separate or different requirements shall be 22 23 developed as may be appropriate whether because of variations in the 24 ages, sex and other characteristics of persons served, variations in the purposes and services offered or size or structure of the agencies 25 26 to be licensed hereunder, or because of any other factor relevant 27 thereto;

(2) In consultation with the children's services advisory committee, and with the advice and assistance of persons representative of the various type agencies to be licensed, to adopt and publish minimum requirements for licensing applicable to each of the various categories of agencies to be licensed.

33 The minimum requirements shall be limited to:

(a) The size and suitability of a facility and the plan of
 operation for carrying out the purpose for which an applicant seeks a
 license;

(b) The character, suitability and competence of an agency and 1 2 other persons associated with an agency directly responsible for the care and treatment of children, expectant mothers or developmentally 3 disabled persons. In consultation with law enforcement personnel, the 4 5 secretary shall investigate the conviction record or pending charges and dependency record information under chapter 43.43 RCW of each б 7 agency and its staff seeking licensure or relicensure. No unfounded allegation of child abuse or neglect as defined in RCW 26.44.020 may be 8 disclosed to a child-placing agency, private adoption agency, or any 9 10 other provider licensed under this chapter. In order to determine the suitability of applicants for an agency license, licensees, their 11 employees, and other persons who have unsupervised access to children 12 13 in care, and who have not resided in the state of Washington during the three-year period before being authorized to care for children shall be 14 fingerprinted. The fingerprints shall be forwarded to the Washington 15 state patrol and federal bureau of investigation for a criminal history 16 17 records check. The fingerprint criminal history records checks will be at the expense of the licensee except that in the case of a foster 18 family home, if this expense would work a hardship on the licensee, the 19 department shall pay the expense. The licensee may not pass this cost 20 21 on to the employee or prospective employee, unless the employee is 22 determined to be unsuitable due to his or her criminal history record. The secretary shall use the information solely for the purpose of 23 24 determining eligibility for a license and for determining the character, suitability, and competence of those persons or agencies, 25 excluding parents, not required to be licensed who are authorized to 26 27 care for children, expectant mothers, and developmentally disabled persons. Criminal justice agencies shall provide the secretary such 28 information as they may have and that the secretary may require for 29 30 such purpose;

31 (c) The number of qualified persons required to render the type of 32 care and treatment for which an agency seeks a license;

33 (d) The safety, cleanliness, and general adequacy of the premises 34 to provide for the comfort, care and well-being of children, expectant 35 mothers or developmentally disabled persons;

(e) The provision of necessary care, including food, clothing,
 supervision and discipline; physical, mental and social well-being; and
 educational, recreational and spiritual opportunities for those served;

(f) The financial ability of an agency to comply with minimum
 requirements established pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW
 74.13.031; and

4 (g) The maintenance of records pertaining to the admission,
5 progress, health and discharge of persons served;

(3) To investigate any person, including relatives by blood or 6 7 marriage except for parents, for character, suitability, and competence in the care and treatment of children, expectant mothers, and 8 developmentally disabled persons prior to authorizing that person to 9 care for children, expectant mothers, and developmentally disabled 10 However, if a child is placed with a relative under RCW 11 persons. 12 13.34.065 or 13.34.130, and if such relative appears otherwise suitable 13 and competent to provide care and treatment the criminal history background check required by this section need not be completed before 14 placement, but shall be completed as soon as possible after placement; 15

16 (4) On reports of alleged child abuse and neglect, to investigate 17 agencies in accordance with chapter 26.44 RCW, including child day-care 18 centers and family day-care homes, to determine whether the alleged 19 abuse or neglect has occurred, and whether child protective services or 20 referral to a law enforcement agency is appropriate;

(5) To issue, revoke, or deny licenses to agencies pursuant to chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031. Licenses shall specify the category of care which an agency is authorized to render and the ages, sex and number of persons to be served;

(6) To prescribe the procedures and the form and contents of reports necessary for the administration of chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 and to require regular reports from each licensee;

(7) To inspect agencies periodically to determine whether or not there is compliance with chapter 74.15 RCW and RCW 74.13.031 and the requirements adopted hereunder;

31 (8) To review requirements adopted hereunder at least every two 32 years and to adopt appropriate changes after consultation with ((the 33 child care coordinating committee and other)) affected groups for child 34 day-care requirements and with the children's services advisory 35 committee for requirements for other agencies; and

(9) To consult with public and private agencies in order to help
 them improve their methods and facilities for the care of children,
 expectant mothers and developmentally disabled persons.

<u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 12. If specific funding for the purposes of this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by June 30, 2005, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and void.

5 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> **Sec. 13.** The following acts or parts of acts are 6 each repealed:

7 (1) RCW 74.13.090 (Child care coordinating committee) and 1995 c
8 399 s 204, 1993 c 194 s 7, 1989 c 381 s 3, & 1988 c 213 s 2; and

9 (2) RCW 74.13.0901 (Child care partnership) and 1989 c 381 s 4.

10 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 14. Sections 1 through 6 of this act expire 11 July 1, 2007.

12 <u>NEW SECTION.</u> Sec. 15. This act is necessary for the immediate 13 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the 14 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect 15 immediately.

> Passed by the House April 19, 2005. Passed by the Senate April 14, 2005. Approved by the Governor May 16, 2005. Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 16, 2005.