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SENATE BILL 5160

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators McCoy, Hasegawa, Cleveland, Frockt, Lias, Rolfes, Chase, Habib, and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/15/15. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating an office of Native early child care  
2 and education; adding a new section to chapter 43.215 RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the experiences  
6 that a child has before entering kindergarten are critical in shaping  
7 the child's foundation for learning. The legislature further finds  
8 that there is uneven access in Washington state to early learning  
9 programs that focus on American Indian and Alaska Native children.

10 The legislature recognizes that the department of early learning  
11 is collaborating with tribal nations to provide access to early  
12 learning resources and information, including developing agreements  
13 in 2010 with the federally recognized tribes on communication and  
14 consultation, providing a tribal liaison as the main point of contact  
15 for tribal nations, having four sites of the early childhood  
16 education and assistance program operated by tribal organizations,  
17 and offering a tribal certification process for child care licensing  
18 for tribes. However, the legislature recognizes that more could be  
19 done to promote and provide greater support to meet the early care  
20 and educational needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students.

1           Therefore, the legislature intends to create an office of Native  
2 early child care and education within the department of early  
3 learning to increase support, technical assistance, access, and  
4 advocacy for early child care and education for American Indian and  
5 Alaska Native students in Washington state.

6           NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.215  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8           (1) An office of Native early child care and education is created  
9 within the department. The director shall appoint an individual to be  
10 responsible for the office.

11           (2) With additional support of federal and local funds where  
12 authorized by law, the office shall:

13           (a) Provide assistance to families in meeting the early child  
14 care and educational needs of American Indian and Alaska Native  
15 children;

16           (b) Facilitate the development and implementation of curricula  
17 and instructional materials in native languages that promote pride in  
18 the unique heritage, culture, and history of tribal nations;

19           (c) Provide assistance to early child care and education  
20 providers in the acquisition of funding to develop curricula and  
21 instructional materials in conjunction with native language  
22 practitioners and tribal elders;

23           (d) Coordinate technical assistance for early child care and  
24 education programs that serve American Indian and Alaska Native  
25 students;

26           (e) Seek funds to develop, in conjunction with tribal nations,  
27 and implement support services for the purposes of the following:

28           (i) Expanding the number of licensed tribal child care providers;

29           (ii) Increasing the number of American Indian and Alaska Native  
30 early child care and education professionals; and

31           (iii) Providing continued professional development for early  
32 child care and education professionals serving American Indian and  
33 Alaska Native students;

34           (f) Facilitate the inclusion of native language programs in early  
35 child care and education programs serving American Indian and Alaska  
36 Native students;

37           (g) Work with all relevant agencies and committees to highlight  
38 the need for accurate, useful data that is appropriately

1 disaggregated to provide a more accurate picture regarding American  
2 Indian and Alaska Native children; and

3 (h) Report to the governor, the legislature, and the governor's  
4 office of Indian affairs on an annual basis, beginning in December  
5 2015, regarding the activities of the office of Native early child  
6 care and education, specifically noting system successes and  
7 accomplishments, deficiencies, and needs.

8 (3) The Native early child care and education public-private  
9 partnership account is created in the custody of the state treasurer.  
10 The purpose of the account is to support the activities of the office  
11 of Native early child care and education within the department.  
12 Receipts from any appropriations made by the legislature for the  
13 purposes of this section, federal funds, gifts or grants from the  
14 private sector or foundations, and other sources must be deposited  
15 into the account. Only the director or the director's designee may  
16 authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject to  
17 allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is  
18 not required for expenditures.

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