
SENATE BILL 6279

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senators Hill and Darneille; by request of Office of Financial Management

Read first time 01/14/16. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to the caseload forecast council; amending RCW
2 43.88C.010, 43.88C.020, and 43.88C.050; and creating a new section.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.88C.010 and 2015 c 128 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The caseload forecast council is hereby created. The council
7 shall consist of two individuals appointed by the governor and four
8 individuals, one of whom is appointed by the chairperson of each of
9 the two largest political caucuses in the senate and house of
10 representatives. The chair of the council shall be selected from
11 among the four caucus appointees. The council may select such other
12 officers as the members deem necessary.

13 (2) The council shall employ a caseload forecast supervisor to
14 supervise the preparation of all caseload forecasts. As used in this
15 chapter, "supervisor" means the caseload forecast supervisor.

16 (3) Approval by an affirmative vote of at least five members of
17 the council is required for any decisions regarding employment of the
18 supervisor. Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after each
19 term of three years. At the end of the first year of each three-year
20 term the council shall consider extension of the supervisor's term by
21 one year. The council may fix the compensation of the supervisor. The

1 supervisor shall employ staff sufficient to accomplish the purposes
2 of this section.

3 (4) The caseload forecast council shall oversee the preparation
4 of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least four members, the
5 official state caseload forecasts prepared under RCW 43.88C.020. If
6 the council is unable to approve a forecast before a date required in
7 RCW 43.88C.020, the supervisor shall submit the forecast without
8 approval and the forecast shall have the same effect as if approved
9 by the council.

10 (5) A councilmember who does not cast an affirmative vote for
11 approval of the official caseload forecast may request, and the
12 supervisor shall provide, an alternative forecast based on
13 assumptions specified by the member.

14 (6) Members of the caseload forecast council shall serve without
15 additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses
16 in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the
17 council or on official business authorized by the council.
18 Nonlegislative members of the council shall be reimbursed for travel
19 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

20 (7) "Caseload," as used in this chapter, means:

21 (a) The number of persons expected to meet entitlement
22 requirements and require the services of public assistance programs,
23 state correctional institutions, state correctional noninstitutional
24 supervision, state institutions for juvenile offenders, the common
25 school system, long-term care, medical assistance, foster care, and
26 adoption support;

27 (b) The number of students who are eligible for the Washington
28 college bound scholarship program and are expected to attend an
29 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.92.030;

30 (c) The number of children who are eligible, as defined in RCW
31 43.215.405, to participate in, and the number of children actually
32 served by, the early childhood education and assistance program.

33 (8) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the temporary
34 assistance for needy families and the working connections child care
35 programs as a courtesy.

36 (9) The caseload forecast council shall forecast youth
37 participating in the extended foster care program pursuant to RCW
38 74.13.031 separately from other children who are residing in foster
39 care and who are under eighteen years of age.

1 (10) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the number of
2 nonmedicaid persons expected to enroll in qualified health or dental
3 plans offered by the health benefit exchange established in RCW
4 43.71.020.

5 (11) The caseload forecast council shall forecast early achiever
6 quality award and tiered reimbursement, levels 2 through 5, for the
7 working connections child care, seasonal child care, and homeless
8 child care programs.

9 (12) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the
10 definitions provided in RCW 43.88.020 apply to this chapter.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.88C.020 and 1997 c 168 s 2 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (1) In consultation with the caseload forecast work group
14 established under RCW 43.88C.030, and subject to the approval of the
15 caseload forecast council under RCW 43.88C.010, the supervisor shall
16 prepare:

17 (a) An official state caseload forecast; and

18 (b) Other caseload forecasts based on alternative assumptions as
19 the council may determine.

20 (2) The supervisor shall submit caseload forecasts prepared under
21 this section, along with any unofficial forecasts provided under RCW
22 43.88C.010, to the governor and the members of the legislative fiscal
23 committees, including one copy to the staff of each of the
24 committees. The forecasts shall be submitted at least three times
25 each year and on such dates as the council determines will facilitate
26 the development of budget proposals by the governor and the
27 legislature.

28 (3) All agencies of state government and the health benefit
29 exchange established in RCW 43.71.020 shall provide to the supervisor
30 immediate access to all information relating to caseload forecasts.

31 (4) The administrator of the legislative evaluation and
32 accountability program committee may request, and the supervisor
33 shall provide, alternative caseload forecasts based on assumptions
34 specified by the administrator.

35 (5) The official state caseload forecast under this section shall
36 be the basis of the governor's budget document as provided in RCW
37 43.88.030 and utilized by the legislature in the development of the
38 omnibus biennial appropriations act.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.88C.050 and 2015 c 128 s 3 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 The caseload forecast council shall appoint a research staff of
4 sufficient size and with sufficient resources to accomplish its
5 duties. The caseload forecast council may request from the
6 administrative office of the courts, the department of early
7 learning, the department of corrections, the health care authority,
8 the superintendent of public instruction, the Washington student
9 achievement council, the department of social and health services,
10 ~~((and))~~ other agencies, and the health benefit exchange established
11 in RCW 43.71.020, with caseloads forecasted by the council, such
12 data, information, and data processing assistance as it may need to
13 accomplish its duties, and such services shall be provided without
14 cost to the caseload forecast council.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The first forecast of the number of
16 nonmedicaid persons expected to enroll in qualified health or dental
17 plans offered by the health benefit exchange, as required by RCW
18 43.88C.010(10), shall be prepared by the caseload forecast council in
19 time to facilitate the development of budget proposals by the
20 governor for the 2017 legislative session.

21 (2) The first forecast of early achiever quality award and tiered
22 reimbursement, levels 2 through 5, for the working connections child
23 care, seasonal child care, and homeless child care programs, as
24 required by RCW 43.88C.010(11), shall be prepared by the caseload
25 forecast council in time to facilitate the development of budget
26 proposals by the governor for the 2017 legislative session.

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