
HOUSE BILL 2094

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives McCaslin, Hoff, Dolan, Dent, and Corry

Read first time 02/19/19. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Early Learning.

1 AN ACT Relating to required qualifications for early learning
2 providers; adding a new section to chapter 43.216 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the
6 department of children, youth, and families has adopted new staff
7 qualifications for early learning providers in rules that take effect
8 August 1, 2019. The legislature further finds that some positions
9 described in the rules have five years from the effective date of the
10 rule to comply with the new qualification requirements, while others
11 must comply upon the date of hire or promotion into the position. The
12 requirement for newly hired and promoted child care center directors
13 and assistant directors to hold an early childhood education
14 certificate or equivalent at the time of hire into their new position
15 does not allow a reasonable time frame for these professionals to
16 acquire the necessary credential. Many early learning providers are
17 on lengthy waiting lists to attend early childhood education classes
18 and community colleges do not have the capacity to enroll them prior
19 to the August 2019 deadline. These factors further hinder a workforce
20 already experiencing declining numbers of providers.

1 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to allow excellent early
2 learning professionals who are promoted to the role of center
3 assistant director or director to take advantage of the opportunity
4 for professional growth by allowing these providers additional time
5 and flexibility to meet staff qualification requirements. Further,
6 the legislature intends to clarify that college credits earned toward
7 an early childhood education degree will be considered an equivalent
8 if the number of earned credits equals forty-five credits or more.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 Before August 1, 2019, the department must revise rules related
12 to professional qualifications for early learning providers to allow
13 any provider to meet the required qualifications within five years
14 after August 1, 2019, or within five years after being employed or
15 promoted into his or her position, whichever is later. When revising
16 the rules, the department must recognize forty-five completed credits
17 in early childhood education as equivalent to the state early
18 childhood education certificate.

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