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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2455**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** House Human Services & Early Learning (originally sponsored by Representatives Kilduff, Eslick, Senn, Ryu, Kloba, Valdez, Bergquist, Davis, Pollet, Goodman, and Wylie; by request of Office of Financial Management)

READ FIRST TIME 01/31/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting access to child care for parents  
2 who are attending high school or working toward completion of a high  
3 school equivalency certificate; amending RCW 28A.160.010; adding a  
4 new section to chapter 43.216 RCW; and adding a new section to  
5 chapter 28A.160 RCW.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) A parent who is attending high school is eligible to receive  
10 working connections child care.

11 (2) A parent age twenty-one years or younger who is working  
12 toward completing a high school equivalency certificate is eligible  
13 to receive working connections child care.

14 (3) When determining consumer eligibility and copayment under  
15 this section, the department:

16 (a) Must, within existing resources, authorize full-day  
17 subsidized child care during the school year in cases where:

18 (i) The parent is participating in one hundred ten hours of  
19 approved activities per month;

1 (ii) The household income of the parent does not exceed eighty-  
2 five percent of the state median income at the time of application;  
3 and

4 (iii) The parent meets all other program eligibility  
5 requirements;

6 (b) May not consider the availability of the other biological  
7 parent when authorizing care; and

8 (c) May not require a copayment.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.160  
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) By July 1, 2021, at the request of an eligible student, a  
12 school district:

13 (a) May allow the student to transport his or her infant on a  
14 school bus or other student transportation vehicle provided by the  
15 district. The infant must be transported in a rear-facing child  
16 restraint system as defined in the federal motor vehicle safety  
17 standards in 49 C.F.R. Sec. 571.213;

18 (b) Must, in cases where a district denies a student's request to  
19 transport his or her infant by school bus, authorize other  
20 arrangements for individual transportation in accordance with RCW  
21 28A.160.030.

22 (2) For the purposes of this section, "eligible student" has the  
23 same meaning as in RCW 28A.160.160.

24 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.160.010 and 1990 c 33 s 132 are each amended to  
25 read as follows:

26 The operation of each local school district's student  
27 transportation program is declared to be the responsibility of the  
28 respective board of directors, and each board of directors shall  
29 determine such matters as which individual students shall be  
30 transported and what routes shall be most efficiently utilized except  
31 as provided in section 2 of this act. State moneys allocated to local  
32 districts for student transportation shall be spent only for student  
33 transportation activities, but need not be spent by the local  
34 district in the same manner as calculated and allocated by the state.

35 A school district is authorized to provide for the transportation  
36 of students enrolled in the school or schools of the district both in  
37 the case of students who reside within the boundaries of the district  
38 and of students who reside outside the boundaries of the district.

1       When children are transported from one school district to another  
2 the board of directors of the respective districts may enter into a  
3 written contract providing for a division of the cost of such  
4 transportation between the districts.

5       School districts may use school buses and drivers hired by the  
6 district or commercial chartered bus service for the transportation  
7 of school children and the school employees necessary for their  
8 supervision to and from any school activities within or without the  
9 school district during or after school hours and whether or not a  
10 required school activity, so long as the school board has officially  
11 designated it as a school activity. For any extra-curricular uses,  
12 the school board shall charge an amount sufficient to reimburse the  
13 district for its cost.

14       In addition to the right to contract for the use of buses  
15 provided in RCW 28A.160.080 and 28A.160.090, any school district may  
16 contract to furnish the use of school buses of that district to other  
17 users who are engaged in conducting an educational or recreational  
18 program supported wholly or in part by tax funds or programs for  
19 elderly persons at times when those buses are not needed by that  
20 district and under such terms as will fully reimburse such school  
21 district for all costs related or incident thereto: PROVIDED,  
22 HOWEVER, That no such use of school district buses shall be permitted  
23 except where other public or private transportation certificated or  
24 licensed by the Washington utilities and transportation commission is  
25 not reasonably available to the user: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no user  
26 shall be required to accept any charter bus for services which the  
27 user believes might place the health or safety of the children or  
28 elderly persons in jeopardy.

29       Whenever any persons are transported by the school district in  
30 its own motor vehicles and by its own employees, the board may  
31 provide insurance to protect the district against loss, whether by  
32 reason of theft, fire or property damage to the motor vehicle or by  
33 reason of liability of the district to persons from the operation of  
34 such motor vehicle.

35       The board may provide insurance by contract purchase for payment  
36 of hospital and medical expenses for the benefit of persons injured  
37 while they are on, getting on, or getting off any vehicles enumerated  
38 herein without respect to any fault or liability on the part of the  
39 school district or operator. This insurance may be provided without

1 cost to the persons notwithstanding the provisions of RCW  
2 28A.400.350.

3 If the transportation of children or elderly persons is arranged  
4 for by contract of the district with some person, the board may  
5 require such contractor to procure such insurance as the board deems  
6 advisable.

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