
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2556

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By House Human Services & Early Learning (originally sponsored by Representatives Dent, Corry, Eslick, Caldier, Klippert, Jenkin, Griffey, McCaslin, Mosbrucker, Gildon, Dufault, and Tharinger)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/20.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing regulatory relief for early learning
2 providers; adding a new section to chapter 43.216 RCW; creating new
3 sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that a nurturing and
6 loving relationship between an early learning provider and a child
7 the provider cares for is an essential component of early learning
8 and has a strong influence on that child's healthy development.
9 Further, the legislature finds that successfully operating a child
10 care center or licensed family home is becoming more financially
11 challenging as the state's regulatory framework for child care and
12 early learning has grown more comprehensive. The legislature
13 recognizes the value of demonstrated competence that comes with a
14 provider's experience in delivering quality child care. Therefore, in
15 response to our state's urgent child care crisis, the legislature
16 intends to provide relief to early learning providers by building the
17 early learning workforce to meet the needs of working families across
18 our state. The legislature further intends for providers to have a
19 range of options to meet education requirements, including a
20 noncredit-bearing community-based training pathway.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216

2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) By July 1, 2021, the department shall implement a noncredit-
4 bearing, community-based training pathway for licensed child care
5 providers to meet professional education requirements associated with
6 child care licensure. The community-based training pathway must be
7 offered as an alternative to existing credit-bearing pathways
8 available to providers.

9 (2) The department shall consult with the following stakeholders
10 in the development and implementation of the community-based training
11 pathway: The statewide child care resource and referral network, a
12 community-based training organization that provides training to
13 licensed family day care providers, a statewide organization that
14 represents the interests of family day care providers, a statewide
15 organization that represents the interests of licensed child day care
16 centers, an organization that represents the interests of refugee and
17 immigrant communities, a bilingual child care provider whose first
18 language is not English, an organization that advocates for early
19 learning, an organization representing private and independent
20 schools, and the state board for community and technical colleges.

21 (3) The community-based training pathway must:

22 (a) Align with adopted core competencies for early learning
23 professionals;

24 (b) Be made available to providers in multiple languages;

25 (c) Include culturally relevant practices; and

26 (d) Be made available at low cost to providers and at prices
27 comparable to the cost of similar community-based trainings, not to
28 exceed two hundred and fifty dollars per person; and

29 (e) Be accessible to providers in rural and urban settings.

30 (4) The department shall allow licensed child care providers
31 until at least August 1, 2026, to:

32 (a) Comply with child care licensing rules that require a
33 provider to hold an early childhood education initial certificate or
34 an early childhood education short certificate; or

35 (b) Complete community-based trainings.

36 (5) For the purposes of this section, "demonstrated competence"
37 means an individual has shown that he or she has the skills to
38 complete the required work independently.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department of children, youth, and
2 families and the state board for community and technical colleges
3 must collaborate with representatives of local community and
4 technical colleges to develop a plan to allow community-based
5 training, including training described in section 2 of this act, that
6 is completed by licensed child care providers to qualify for college
7 credit. The department of children, youth, and families must submit
8 the plan to the governor and the legislature by December 1, 2021.
9 (2) This section expires December 1, 2022.

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