CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2556

Chapter 342, Laws of 2020

66th Legislature
2020 Regular Session

EARLY LEARNING PROVIDERS--TRAINING

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 11, 2020

Passed by the House February 13, 2020
Yeas 97  Nays 0

LAURIE JINKINS
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 6, 2020
Yeas 48  Nays 0

CYRUS HABIB
President of the Senate

CERTIFICATE
I, Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2556 as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

BERNARD DEAN
Chief Clerk

FILED
April 3, 2020

JAY INSLEE
Governor of the State of Washington

Secretary of State
State of Washington
AN ACT Relating to providing regulatory relief for early learning providers; adding a new section to chapter 43.216 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature finds that a nurturing and loving relationship between an early learning provider and a child the provider cares for is an essential component of early learning and has a strong influence on that child’s healthy development. Further, the legislature finds that successfully operating a child care center or licensed family home is becoming more financially challenging as the state's regulatory framework for child care and early learning has grown more comprehensive. The legislature recognizes the value of demonstrated competence that comes with a provider's experience in delivering quality child care. Therefore, in response to our state's urgent child care crisis, the legislature intends to provide relief to early learning providers by building the early learning workforce to meet the needs of working families across our state. The legislature further intends for providers to have a range of options to meet education requirements, including a noncredit-bearing community-based training pathway.
NEW SECTION.  Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 43.216
RCW to read as follows:

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

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

(3) The community-based training pathway must:

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

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

(c) Include culturally relevant practices; and

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

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

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

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

(b) Complete community-based trainings.

(5) For the purposes of this section, "demonstrated competence"
means an individual has shown that he or she has the skills to
complete the required work independently.
NEW SECTION.  Sec. 3.  (1) The department of children, youth, and families and the state board for community and technical colleges must collaborate with representatives of local community and technical colleges to develop a plan to allow community-based training, including training described in section 2 of this act, that is completed by licensed child care providers to qualify for college credit. The department of children, youth, and families must submit the plan to the governor and the legislature by December 1, 2021.

(2) This section expires December 1, 2022.

Passed by the House February 13, 2020.
Passed by the Senate March 6, 2020.
Approved by the Governor April 3, 2020.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 3, 2020.