

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1916

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As of February 23, 2024

**Title:** An act relating to funding for the early support for infants and toddlers program.

**Brief Description:** Concerning funding for the early support for infants and toddlers program.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Senn, Couture, Leavitt, Taylor, Paul, Callan, Ramos, Cortes, Reed, Fey, Timmons, Street, Doglio, Simmons, Wylie, Reeves, Alvarado, Nance, Riccelli, Fosse, Pollet and Shavers; by request of Department of Children, Youth, and Families).

**Brief History:** Passed House: 2/12/24, 95-0.

**Committee Activity:** Early Learning & K-12 Education: 2/21/24 [DP-WM].

Ways & Means: 2/24/24.

### Brief Summary of Bill

- Changes the definition of when a child is receiving early intervention services for the purposes of Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program funding.
- Specifies that a child must receive services within the same month as the monthly count day instead of the month prior, and that the monthly count day is the last business day of the month instead of the first business day.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Wellman, Chair; Nobles, Vice Chair; Wilson, C., Vice Chair; Hawkins, Ranking Member; Dozier, Hunt, McCune, Mullet and Pedersen.

**Staff:** Ailey Kato (786-7434)

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**Staff:** Josh Hinman (786-7281)

**Background:** The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is the state lead agency for Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and must administer the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program. The ESIT program provides early intervention services to all eligible children with disabilities from birth to three years of age. Early intervention services include services such as occupational or physical therapy; speech-language pathology; psychological, health, vision, social work; and other services.

To be eligible, a child must have a 25 percent delay or show a 1.5 standard deviation below his or her age in one or more of the developmental areas. A child may also be eligible if he or she has a physical or mental condition that is known to cause a delay in development.

Funding for ESIT must be appropriated to DCYF based on a certain formula for children ages birth to three who are eligible for and receiving early intervention services. A child is receiving early intervention services if the child has received services within a month prior to the monthly count day. The monthly count day is the first business day of the month.

**Summary of Bill:** For the purposes of ESIT funding, a child is receiving early intervention services if the child has received services within the same month as the monthly count day instead of the month prior. The monthly count day is changed from the first business day of the month to the last business day of the month.

**Appropriation:** The bill contains a null and void clause requiring specific funding be provided in an omnibus appropriation act.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony (Early Learning & K-12 Education):** No public hearing was held.

**Persons Testifying (Early Learning & K-12 Education):** N/A

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying (Early Learning & K-12 Education):**  
N/A