
HOUSE BILL 2780

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Fromhold, Kagi, Delvin, Quall, McIntire, Chase, Darneille, Conway, Morrell and Kenney

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to early learning and child care programs and
2 services in the state; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that early learning
5 and child care are an essential part of the daily lives of Washington
6 families. The early years of a child's life are critical to the
7 child's healthy brain development and the quality of caregiving during
8 those early years can significantly impact the child's intellectual and
9 emotional growth and social adjustment.

10 The legislature further finds that the state is involved in
11 numerous early learning and child care programs and services that are
12 administered through at least three state agencies. A more cohesive
13 and integrated early learning and child care system would result in
14 greater efficiencies for the state and greater accessibility for the
15 families that the programs are intended to serve. An effective system
16 of governance would provide leadership, voice, and vision for early
17 learning and child care in state government.

18 It is therefore the purpose of this act to initiate a process to
19 develop a strategic vision and specific goals for early learning and

1 child care programs and services throughout the state in order to
2 provide support to families in preparing for and maintaining children's
3 success in school.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) There is established an early learning
5 and child care legislative work group to make recommendations for
6 developing a strategic vision and specific goals for early learning and
7 child care programs and services in the state.

8 (2) Members of the work group shall be appointed by the speaker of
9 the house of representatives and the president of the senate.
10 Membership of the work group shall consist of members of the house
11 children and family services committee, education committee, and
12 appropriations committee and the senate children and family services
13 and corrections committee, education committee, and ways and means
14 committee. Cochairs of the work group shall be appointed by the
15 speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
16 senate.

17 (3) The work group shall:

18 (a) Define legislative expectations and provide policy direction
19 for a statewide strategic plan for quality early learning and child
20 care programs and services, which places early learning and child care
21 within the context of life-long learning;

22 (b) Identify the most efficient system for the administration and
23 fiscal management of quality early learning and child care programs and
24 services in the state;

25 (c) Make recommendations regarding consolidation of early learning
26 and child care programs and services in the state; and

27 (d) Seek involvement from families, community groups, stakeholder
28 groups, and state agencies involved with early learning and child care
29 programs and services throughout the state.

30 (4) The work group shall use legislative facilities and staff from
31 the office of program research and senate committee services.

32 (5) The work group shall report its progress to the legislature by
33 December 5, 2004.

34 (6) The work group shall report its recommendations to the
35 legislature by January 10, 2005.

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