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SENATE BILL 5865

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Senators Kauffman, Roach, McAuliffe, Hobbs, Kline, and Shin

Read first time 02/04/09. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to a report on early learning services for low-  
2 income families; creating a new section; and repealing RCW 43.215.125.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    (1) The joint legislative audit and review  
5 committee shall review and compare the state early childhood education  
6 and assistance program and the federal head start program. At a  
7 minimum, the joint legislative audit and review committee shall provide  
8 comparative data on the following:

9            (a) Eligibility criteria, funding levels that reflect the amount  
10 spent per child per hours of service, delivery methods, service hour  
11 configurations, facilities, transportation requirements, performance  
12 standards, professional development and training, and technical  
13 assistance; and

14            (b) Educational outcomes, kindergarten readiness, and processes for  
15 ensuring continuous improvement in program quality.

16            (2) Beginning with the work completed by the Washington state  
17 institute for public policy under chapter 25, Laws of 2003 1st sp.  
18 sess., the joint legislative audit and review committee shall evaluate  
19 the latest research and information on early childhood development and

1 identify any new innovations that may further improve the quality of  
2 state-supported early learning programs, resulting in improved outcomes  
3 for low-income children and their families.

4 (3) The joint legislative audit and review committee shall seek  
5 training or technical assistance from the appropriate regional office  
6 of federal head start in order to maximize nonstate resources. The  
7 joint legislative audit and review committee also shall solicit input  
8 from:

9 (a) State early childhood education and assistance program  
10 providers on Indian reservations and across the state, including  
11 providers who operate solely state-supported programs;

12 (b) Tribal governments operating head start programs and early head  
13 start programs in the state;

14 (c) Providers operating migrant and seasonal head start programs in  
15 the state; and

16 (d) The early learning advisory council.

17 (4) The joint legislative audit and review committee shall deliver  
18 its final report to the appropriate committees of the legislature by  
19 July 1, 2010.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.215.125 (Washington head start  
21 program proposal--Report) and 2008 c 164 s 2 are each repealed.

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