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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2716**

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**State of Washington**

**64th Legislature**

**2016 Regular Session**

**By** House Early Learning & Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Senn, Walsh, Kagi, Walkinshaw, McCabe, Ortiz-Self, Bergquist, Stanford, Gregerson, Ormsby, and Goodman)

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/16.

1       AN ACT Relating to working connections child care eligibility for  
2 vulnerable children; creating new sections; and providing an  
3 effective date.

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

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that children with  
6 the greatest needs benefit significantly from child care programs  
7 that promote stability, quality, and continuity of care. The  
8 legislature recognizes that empirical evidence supports the  
9 conclusion that high quality child care programs consistently yield  
10 more positive outcomes for children, with the strongest positive  
11 impacts on the most vulnerable children. The legislature finds that  
12 the child care and development block grant act of 2014 allows the  
13 department of early learning to provide working connections child  
14 care to children in need of, or receiving, protective services. The  
15 legislature further understands that beginning July 1, 2016,  
16 authorizations for the working connections child care subsidy will be  
17 effective for twelve months. The legislature intends to allow certain  
18 populations of vulnerable children to be eligible for the working  
19 connections child care subsidy for a minimum of twelve months.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    The department of early learning shall  
2 adopt rules, in accordance with Public Law 113-186, Sec.  
3 10(4)(C)(ii), as it existed on January 1, 2016. The rules shall  
4 provide for the following and such other matters the department deems  
5 necessary for the proper implementation of this section:

6        (1) A requirement that a child is eligible for working  
7 connections child care if the child has received child protective  
8 services child care or child welfare services child care within the  
9 prior six months and the response the department of social and health  
10 services initiated pursuant to chapter 74.13, 74.15, or 26.44 RCW has  
11 concluded;

12        (2) A definition of protective services that would only apply for  
13 the purposes of working connections child care eligibility and would  
14 not require the department of social and health services or the  
15 department of early learning to automatically consider these children  
16 to be in official child protective services as used in chapters 74.13  
17 and 26.44 RCW. These children shall not be identified as needing a  
18 response by the department of social and health services in  
19 accordance with chapter 74.13, 74.15, or 26.44 RCW, or intervention  
20 by the department of early learning, except in cases where that is  
21 appropriate for reasons other than the inclusion of the child in the  
22 new category of vulnerable child for purposes of working connections  
23 child care eligibility; and

24        (3) A requirement that the department of social and health  
25 service's involvement with the family referred for working  
26 connections child care ends for purposes of child protective services  
27 at the time that the response of the department of social and health  
28 services initiated pursuant to chapter 74.13, 74.15, or 26.44 RCW has  
29 concluded.

30        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    This act takes effect December 1, 2017.

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