

2SSB 5595 - H AMD 463

By Representative Kagi

ADOPTED 04/23/2013

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.215
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The standards and guidelines described in this section are
6 intended for the guidance of the department and the department of
7 social and health services. They are not intended to, do not, and may
8 not be relied upon to create a right or benefit, substantive or
9 procedural, enforceable at law by a party in litigation with the state.

10 (2) When providing services to parents applying for or receiving
11 working connections child care benefits, the department must provide
12 training to departmental employees on professionalism.

13 (3) When providing services to parents applying for or receiving
14 working connections child care benefits, the department of social and
15 health services has the following responsibilities:

16 (a) To return all calls from parents receiving working connections
17 child care benefits within two business days of receiving the call;

18 (b) To develop a process by which parents receiving working
19 connections child care benefits can submit required forms and
20 information electronically by June 30, 2015;

21 (c) To notify providers and parents ten days before the loss of
22 working connections child care benefits; and

23 (d) To provide parents with a document that explains in detail and
24 in easily understood language what services they are eligible for, how
25 they can appeal an adverse decision, and the parents' responsibilities
26 in obtaining and maintaining eligibility for working connections child
27 care.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) A legislative task force on child

1 care improvements for the future is established with members as
2 provided in this subsection.

3 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from each
4 of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

5 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint two
6 members from each of the two largest caucuses in the house of
7 representatives.

8 (iii) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
9 representatives shall appoint fifteen members representing the
10 following interests:

11 (A) The department of early learning;

12 (B) The department of social and health services;

13 (C) The early learning advisory committee;

14 (D) Thrive by five;

15 (E) Private pay child care consumers;

16 (F) Child care consumers receiving a subsidy;

17 (G) Family child care providers;

18 (H) Child care center providers;

19 (I) Exempt child care providers;

20 (J) The collective bargaining unit representing child care
21 providers;

22 (K) School-age child care providers;

23 (L) Child care aware;

24 (M) The Washington state association of head start and the early
25 childhood education and assistance program;

26 (N) The early learning action alliance; and

27 (O) Puget Sound educational service district.

28 (b) The task force shall choose its cochairs from among its
29 legislative leadership. The members of the majority party in each
30 house shall convene the first meeting.

31 (2) The task force shall address the following issues:

32 (a) The creation of a tiered reimbursement model that works for
33 both consumers and providers and provides incentives for quality child
34 care across communities;

35 (b) The development of recommendations and an implementation plan
36 for expansion of the program referred to in RCW 43.215.400 to include
37 a mixed delivery system that integrates community-based early learning

1 providers, including but not limited to family child care, child care
2 centers, schools, and educational services districts. Recommendations
3 shall include:

4 (i) Areas of alignment and conflicts in restrictions and
5 eligibility requirements associated with early learning funding and
6 services;

7 (ii) A funding plan that blends and maximizes existing resources
8 and identifies new revenue and other funding sources; and

9 (iii) Incentives for integrating child care and preschool
10 programming to better serve working families;

11 (c) The development of recommendations for market rate
12 reimbursement to allow access to high quality child care; and

13 (d) The development of recommendations for a further graduation of
14 the copay scale to eliminate the cliff that occurs at subsidy cut off.

15 (3) Staff support for the task force must be provided by the senate
16 committee services and the house of representatives office of program
17 research.

18 (4) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
19 the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature no later
20 than December 31, 2013.

21 (5) This section expires July 1, 2014.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The legislature finds that the Aclara
23 group report on the eligibility requirements for working connections
24 child care which came from the pedagogy of lean management and focused
25 on identifying and eliminating nonvalue added work should be followed.
26 The legislature further finds that, following some of the
27 recommendations in the report, would result in simplifying and
28 streamlining the child care system to improve access and customer
29 service without decreasing the program's integrity.

30 (2) By December 1, 2013, the department and the department of
31 social and health services shall accomplish the following:

32 (a) Eliminate the current custody/visitation policy and design a
33 subsidy system that is flexible and accounts for small fluctuations in
34 family circumstances;

35 (b) Create broad authorization categories so that relatively minor
36 changes in parents' work schedule does not require changes in
37 authorization;

1 (c) Establish rules to specify that parents who receive working
2 connections child care benefits and participate in one hundred ten
3 hours or more of approved work or related activities are eligible for
4 full-time child care services; and

5 (d) Clarify and simplify the requirement to count child support as
6 income."

7 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Removes the definition of the Early Achievers Program.
Removes the goals of the Early Achievers Program.
Removes the provision that specifies that all licensed child care
providers may voluntarily participate in the Early Achievers Program.
Removes the provision that specifies that Early Achievers has five
levels.

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