
SENATE BILL 5344

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl, Long, Brown, Wood, Thibaudeau, Hargrove, McAuliffe, Winsley and Sheldon

Read first time 01/23/97. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to training for child care providers; amending RCW
2 74.13.090; adding new sections to chapter 74.13 RCW; creating new
3 sections; making an appropriation; and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The intent of this act is to improve the
6 quality of care provided to the children in Washington state by:

7 (1) Establishing uniform training and education requirements in the
8 child care industry for personnel in state-licensed child care
9 facilities;

10 (2) Developing and expanding services and systems to enable all
11 child care personnel in licensed child care facilities to receive
12 fundamental training in early childhood and school-age care and
13 education; and

14 (3) Establishing the proper regulatory role of the state in
15 assuring that delivery of child care is done by properly trained
16 individuals and businesses.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature finds that:

1 (1) Licensed child care services are delivered each day to as many
2 as one hundred sixty thousand children between the ages of six weeks
3 and twelve years, and that nearly half of Washington families with
4 children under age six use licensed child care;

5 (2) The enactment of federal welfare reform combined with the
6 increase in the number of mothers with young children in the work force
7 means that there will be an increasing need for additional child care
8 workers;

9 (3) The need for quality child care is especially acute for low-
10 income families;

11 (4) A statistically significant link exists between a child's
12 receipt of high quality care from adults, especially in a child's early
13 years, and avoidance of risk factors associated with social and
14 educational failure;

15 (5) Most child care workers are paid low wages and find training
16 expenses to be a financial burden;

17 (6) Mandatory training and education, provided in diverse settings,
18 will improve the quality of care provided by child care employees as
19 well as help attract and retain more qualified persons in the child
20 care industry; and

21 (7) There are more than ten thousand child care businesses in
22 Washington state, many of which are established without previous
23 business experience. Establishment of a training requirement for child
24 care center directors, program supervisors, and licensed family child-
25 care providers will improve management and personnel practices and
26 enhance their chances of having a successful business that provides a
27 safe and positive environment for children.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
29 to read as follows:

30 (1)(a) Any licensee or person employed at a licensed child care
31 facility who is counted in meeting department-required minimum staff-
32 to-child ratios must successfully complete and provide documentation
33 for twenty clock hours of department-approved training or two college
34 quarter credits in age-appropriate early childhood and school-age care
35 and education based on rules and guidelines adopted by the department
36 and core competencies developed by the child care coordinating
37 committee before working with children. This requirement may be
38 satisfied by training approved by the department that was taken within

1 the five years before licensure, employment, or the effective date of
2 this section, whichever occurs later.

3 (b) Until January 1, 2004, the requirements of this subsection may
4 be fulfilled within the first six months of employment in or new
5 licensure of a child care facility, except that for persons employed at
6 a licensed child care facility or licensed on the effective date of
7 this section, the requirements of this subsection may be fulfilled
8 within the first twelve months after the effective date of this
9 section.

10 (2) For the purposes of this section and section 4 of this act,
11 "clock hours" means actual hours spent in instruction.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
13 to read as follows:

14 (1) In each year after fulfilling the requirements of section 3 of
15 this act, any person employed at a licensed child care facility who is
16 counted in meeting department-required minimum staff-to-child ratios
17 must successfully complete and provide documentation of yearly
18 department-approved continuing education of a minimum of ten clock
19 hours of training or one college quarter credit in age-appropriate
20 early childhood and school-age care and education based on rules and
21 guidelines adopted by the department and core competencies developed by
22 the child care coordinating committee.

23 (2) Child care center directors, program supervisors, and family
24 child care licensees must successfully complete and provide
25 documentation of yearly department-approved continuing education of a
26 minimum of ten clock hours of training or one college quarter credit
27 based on rules and guidelines adopted by the department and core
28 competencies developed by the child care coordinating committee. Five
29 clock hours of the continuing education shall be in age-appropriate
30 early childhood and school-age care and education, and five clock hours
31 shall be in program management and operation. Satisfaction of the
32 requirements of this subsection satisfies the requirements of
33 subsection (1) of this section.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
35 to read as follows:

36 Before working with children, any licensee or person employed at a
37 licensed child care facility who is counted in meeting department-

1 required minimum staff-to-child ratios must successfully complete and
2 provide current documentation for training based on rules and
3 guidelines adopted by the department in: Age-appropriate first aid;
4 age-appropriate cardiopulmonary resuscitation; HIV/AIDS related
5 conditions; and blood borne pathogens.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) The department, in collaboration with the child care
9 coordinating committee and other community stakeholders, shall:

10 (a) Design and administer a system for: (i) The approval of
11 training programs, including a requirement that training programs
12 include an evaluation component; (ii) maintaining a registry for
13 approved training programs; and (iii) maintaining a registry of
14 approved training completed by licensees and child care workers;

15 (b) Develop an implementation strategy enabling child care workers
16 and administrators to meet the training required under sections 3
17 through 5 of this act;

18 (c) Ensure that training resources for the early childhood and
19 school-age care and education profession are coordinated and used
20 efficiently;

21 (d) Develop a system for tracking the approved training completed
22 by persons under sections 3 through 5 of this act;

23 (e) Develop and administer a system for the approval of training
24 programs and maintenance of a registry of approved trainings; and

25 (f) Develop and administer a program providing scholarships,
26 grants, loans, or other subsidies to low-income persons for the purpose
27 of receiving approved training.

28 (2) The department may contract with public or private entities to
29 provide services with regard to the maintenance of registries for
30 training programs and child care workers.

31 (3) Training approved by the department may be provided by a
32 community-based entity or an institution of higher education.

33 **Sec. 7.** RCW 74.13.090 and 1995 c 399 s 204 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 (1) There is established a child care coordinating committee to
36 provide coordination and communication between state agencies
37 responsible for child care and early childhood education services. The

1 child care coordinating committee shall be composed of not (~~less than~~
2 ~~seventeen nor~~) more than (~~thirty three~~) thirty-seven members who
3 shall include:

4 (a) One representative each from:

5 (i) The department of social and health services(~~(τ)~~);

6 (ii) The department of community, trade, and economic
7 development(~~(τ, the office of the superintendent of public instruction,~~
8 ~~and any other agency having responsibility for regulation, provision,~~
9 ~~or funding of child care services in the state))~~);

10 (~~(b) One representative from~~) (iii) The department of labor and
11 industries;

12 (~~(c) One representative from~~) (iv) The department of revenue;

13 (~~(d) One representative from~~) (v) The employment security
14 department;

15 (~~(e) One representative from~~) (vi) The department of personnel;

16 (~~(f) One representative from~~) (vii) The department of health;

17 (~~(g)~~) (viii) The office of the superintendent of public
18 instruction;

19 (ix) The higher education coordinating board;

20 (x) The state board for community and technical colleges; and

21 (xi) Any other agency having responsibility for regulation,
22 provision, or funding of child care services in the state;

23 (b) At least one representative each of:

24 (i) Family home child care providers (~~(and one representative of)~~);

25 (ii) Center care providers;

26 (~~(h) At least one representative of~~) (iii) Early childhood
27 development experts;

28 (~~(i) At least one representative of~~) (iv) School districts and
29 teachers involved in the provision of child care and preschool
30 programs;

31 (~~(j) At least one~~) (v) Parent education specialists;

32 (~~(k) At least one representative of~~) (vi) Resource and referral
33 programs;

34 (~~(l) One~~) (vii) Pediatric or other health professional;

35 (~~(m) At least one representative of~~) (viii) College or university
36 child care providers;

37 (~~(n) At least one representative of~~) (ix) A citizen group
38 concerned with child care;

39 (~~(o) At least one representative of~~) (x) A labor organization;

1 (~~((p) At least one representative of))~~ (xi) A head start - early
2 childhood education assistance program agency;

3 (~~((q) At least one))~~ (xii) Employers who provide(~~((s))~~) child care
4 assistance to employees;

5 (~~((r))~~) (xiii) Parents (~~((of children receiving, or in need of,~~
6 ~~child care, half of whom shall be parents))~~) needing or receiving
7 subsidized child care (~~((and half of whom shall be))~~); and

8 (xiv) Parents needing or receiving child care who are able to pay
9 for child care.

10 The named state agencies shall select their representative to the
11 child care coordinating committee. The (~~(department of social and~~
12 ~~health services)) committee shall select the remaining members,
13 considering recommendations from lists submitted by professional
14 associations and other interest groups (~~(until such time as the~~
15 ~~committee adopts a member selection process))~~). The department shall
16 use any federal funds which may become available to accomplish the
17 purposes of RCW 74.13.085 through 74.13.095.~~

18 The committee shall elect officers from among its membership and
19 shall adopt policies and procedures specifying the lengths of terms,
20 methods for filling vacancies, and other matters necessary to the
21 ongoing functioning of the committee. (~~(The secretary of social and~~
22 ~~health services shall appoint a temporary chair until the committee has~~
23 ~~adopted policies and elected a chair accordingly.))~~) Child care
24 coordinating committee members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses
25 as provided in RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

26 (2) To the extent possible within available funds, the child care
27 coordinating committee shall:

28 (a) Serve as an advisory coordinator for all state agencies
29 responsible for early childhood or child care programs for the purpose
30 of improving communication and interagency coordination;

31 (b) Annually review state programs and make recommendations to the
32 agencies and the legislature which will maximize funding and promote
33 furtherance of the policies set forth in RCW 74.13.085. Reports shall
34 be provided to (~~(all appropriate committees of))~~ the legislature by
35 December 1 of each year. At a minimum the committee shall:

36 (i) Review and propose changes to the child care subsidy system
37 (~~((in its December 1989 report))~~);

38 (ii) Review alternative models for child care service systems, in
39 the context of the policies set forth in RCW 74.13.085, and recommend

1 to the legislature (~~((a new))~~) possible changes to the child care service
2 structure; and

3 (iii) Review (~~((options and make recommendations on the feasibility~~
4 ~~of establishing an allocation for day care facilities when constructing~~
5 ~~state buildings))~~) and recommend models for financing the child care
6 system to promote affordable, accessible, and quality child care;

7 (c) Review the department's (~~((of social and health services))~~)
8 administration of the child care expansion grant program described in
9 RCW 74.13.095;

10 (d) Review rules and policies regarding child care facilities and
11 services (~~((for the purpose of identifying those which))~~) to promote
12 quality of care while avoiding rules and policies that may
13 unnecessarily obstruct the availability and affordability of child care
14 in the state;

15 (e) Advise and assist the office of child care policy in
16 implementing (~~((his or her))~~) its duties under RCW 74.13.0903;

17 (f) Perform other functions to improve the quantity and quality of
18 child care in the state, including compliance with existing and future
19 prerequisites for federal funding; and

20 (g) Advise and assist the department of personnel in its
21 responsibility for establishing policies and procedures that provide
22 for the development of quality child care programs for state employees.

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. (1) The sum of one million eight hundred
24 seventy-five thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary,
25 is appropriated for the biennium ending June 30, 1999, from the general
26 fund to the department of social and health services for the purposes
27 of implementing this act.

28 (2) The appropriation in this section is subject to the following
29 conditions and limitations:

30 (a) One hundred thousand dollars of the appropriation is provided
31 solely for implementation of sections 3 and 4 of this act;

32 (b) One million two hundred seventy-five thousand dollars of the
33 appropriation is provided solely for implementation of section 6 of
34 this act; and

35 (c) Five hundred thousand dollars of the appropriation is provided
36 solely for scholarships, grants, loans, or other subsidies for low-
37 income persons, who are legal residents of the United States, for the
38 purpose of receiving approved training. The department of social and

1 health services shall establish suitable standards for awarding the
2 scholarships, grants, loans, and other subsidies.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Sections 3 and 4 of this act take effect
4 January 1, 1999.

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