

HB 2780 - H AMD

By Representative Talcott

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the early
4 years of a child's life are critical to the child's healthy brain
5 development and the quality of caregiving during those early years
6 can significantly impact the child's intellectual and emotional
7 growth and social adjustment.

8 It is therefore the purpose of this act to initiate a process
9 to develop goals for early learning and care programs throughout
10 the state in order to provide support to families in preparing for
11 and maintaining children's success in school.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) There is established an early
13 learning and care legislative work group to make recommendations
14 for developing specific goals for early learning and care programs
15 in the state.

16 (2) Members of the work group shall be appointed by the speaker
17 of the house of representatives and the president of the senate.
18 Membership of the work group shall consist of members of the house
19 children and family services committee, education committee, and
20 appropriations committee and the senate children and family
21 services and corrections committee, education committee, and ways
22 and means committee. Cochairs of the work group shall be appointed
23 by the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of
24 the senate.

25 (3) The work group shall:

26 (a) Define legislative expectations and provide policy
27 direction for quality early learning and care programs;

1 (b) Identify the most efficient ways to improve the
2 administration and fiscal management of quality early learning and
3 care programs in the state;

4 (c) Seek involvement from families, community groups, early
5 learning and care professionals and organizations, and state
6 agencies involved with early learning and care programs throughout
7 the state.

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

10 (5) The work group shall report its recommendations to the
11 legislature by January 10, 2005."

EFFECT:

Establishes an Early Learning and Care Legislative Work Group, *rather than* an Early Learning and Child Care Legislative Work Group, to make recommendations for developing specific goals for early learning and care programs in the state, *rather than* to make recommendations for developing a strategic vision and specific goals for early learning and child care programs and services in the state.

Requires the Work Group to:

--define legislative expectations and provide policy direction for quality early learning and care programs, *rather than* for a statewide strategic plan for quality early learning and child care programs and services;

--identify the most efficient ways to improve the administration and fiscal management of quality early learning and care programs in the state, *rather than* identify the most efficient system for the administration and fiscal management of quality early learning and child care programs and services in the state;

--seek involvement from families, community groups, early learning and care professionals and organizations *rather than* stakeholder groups, and state agencies involved with early learning and care programs, *rather than* early learning and child care programs and services, throughout the state.

Eliminates the requirement that the Work Group make recommendations regarding consolidation of early learning and child care programs and services in the state.

Eliminates the requirement that the Work Group report its progress to the Legislature by December 5, 2004, but retains the requirement that the Work Group report its recommendations to the legislature by January 10, 2005.