
HOUSE BILL 1042

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Representative Sommers; by request of Governor Locke

Read first time 01/11/2005. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the early childhood education and assistance
2 program; amending RCW 28A.215.100, 28A.215.110, 28A.215.120, and
3 28A.215.150; adding a new section to chapter 28A.215 RCW; and repealing
4 RCW 28A.215.140 and 28A.215.190.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.215.100 and 1994 c 166 s 1 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) It is the intent of the legislature to establish an early
9 childhood state education and assistance program. This special
10 assistance program is a voluntary enrichment program to help prepare
11 some children to enter the common school system and shall be offered
12 only as funds are available. This program is not a part of the basic
13 program of education which must be fully funded by the legislature
14 under Article IX, section 1 of the state Constitution.

15 (2) The early childhood education and assistance program is a
16 comprehensive preschool program designed to aid at-risk children, and
17 to enhance readiness for success in school and life. The needs of the
18 children and their families will be best served if it is consolidated
19 with other early childhood services. Administering similar programs

1 from the same agency will have the benefit of improving connections
2 with social supports, better connection between the child care programs
3 and the preschool program for both the families and the providers, and
4 greater administrative efficiencies.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.215.110 and 1999 c 350 s 1 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
8 this section apply throughout RCW 28A.215.100 through 28A.215.200 and
9 28A.215.900 through 28A.215.908.

10 (1) (~~("Advisory committee" means the advisory committee under RCW~~
11 ~~28A.215.140.~~

12 ~~(2))~~ "Department" means the department of (~~community, trade, and~~
13 ~~economic development~~) social and health services.

14 ~~((3))~~ (2) "Eligible child" means a child not eligible for
15 kindergarten whose family income is at or below one hundred ten percent
16 of the federal poverty level, as published annually by the federal
17 department of health and human services, and includes a child whose
18 family is eligible for public assistance, and who is not a participant
19 in a federal or state program providing comprehensive services and may
20 include children who are eligible under rules adopted by the department
21 if the number of such children equals not more than ten percent of the
22 total enrollment in the early childhood program. Priority for
23 enrollment shall be given to children from families with the lowest
24 income or to eligible children from families with multiple needs.

25 ~~((4))~~ (3) "Approved programs" means those state-supported
26 education and special assistance programs which are recognized by the
27 department (~~of community, trade, and economic development~~) as meeting
28 the minimum program rules adopted by the department to qualify under
29 RCW 28A.215.100 through 28A.215.200 and 28A.215.900 through 28A.215.908
30 and are designated as eligible for funding by the department under RCW
31 28A.215.160 and 28A.215.180.

32 ~~((5))~~ (4) "Comprehensive" means an assistance program that
33 focuses on the needs of the child and includes education, health, and
34 family support services.

35 ~~((6))~~ (5) "Family support services" means providing opportunities
36 for parents to:

37 (a) Actively participate in their child's early childhood program;

- 1 (b) Increase their knowledge of child development and parenting
- 2 skills;
- 3 (c) Further their education and training;
- 4 (d) Increase their ability to use needed services in the community;
- 5 (e) Increase their self-reliance.

6 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.215.120 and 1994 c 166 s 4 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 The department (~~(of community, trade, and economic development)~~)
9 shall administer a state-supported early childhood education and
10 assistance program to assist eligible children with educational,
11 social, health, nutritional, and cultural development to enhance their
12 opportunity for success in the common school system. Eligible children
13 shall be admitted to approved early childhood programs to the extent
14 that the legislature provides funds, and additional eligible children
15 may be admitted to the extent that grants and contributions from
16 community sources provide sufficient funds for a program equivalent to
17 that supported by state funds. Administration and funding of this
18 program shall be shifted to the department no later than December 1,
19 2005. All existing contracts with program providers entered into for
20 the 2005-06 school year with the department of community, trade, and
21 economic development shall remain in full force and effect and shall be
22 the responsibility of the department. All funds designated for this
23 program remaining at the department of community, trade, and economic
24 development after December 1, 2005, shall be transferred to the
25 department.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.215
27 RCW to read as follows:

- 28 (1) A nine-member steering committee is created, which committee
- 29 shall advise the department on the ongoing promotion and operation of
- 30 the early childhood education and assistance program. This advice
- 31 shall include:
 - 32 (a) Program standards, which shall be guided by appropriate
 - 33 research;
 - 34 (b) Development of partnerships among providers of early learning
 - 35 programs;
 - 36 (c) Development of opportunities for professional development; and

1 (d) Identifying opportunities to build upon existing programs and
2 resources by increasing program quality, connecting related services,
3 and simplifying program administration.

4 (2) The steering committee authorized in subsection (1) of this
5 section shall be composed of and appointed in accordance with this
6 subsection.

7 (a) The secretary of the department shall appoint two agency
8 employees responsible for policies relating to early learning and
9 assistance to children, one representative of an early childhood
10 education and assistance program provider or contractor and one parent
11 with a child participating in the program. The secretary shall also
12 designate the chair of the steering committee.

13 (b) The superintendent of public instruction shall appoint two
14 representatives of that office who are knowledgeable about early
15 learning and assistance to children and one representative of an early
16 childhood education and assistance program provider or contractor.

17 (c) The director of the department of community, trade, and
18 economic development shall appoint one representative.

19 (d) The secretary of the department of health shall appoint one
20 member who is knowledgeable about early learning and pediatric public
21 health issues.

22 (3) Except for state official and state employee members, each
23 member of the board shall be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in
24 carrying out the duties of the board in accordance with RCW 43.03.050
25 and 43.03.060.

26 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.215.150 and 1994 c 166 s 6 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 The department shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW for the
29 administration of the early childhood program. Approved early
30 childhood programs shall conduct needs assessments of their service
31 area, identify any targeted groups of children, to include but not be
32 limited to children of seasonal and migrant farmworkers and native
33 American populations living either on or off reservation, and provide
34 to the department a service delivery plan, to the extent practicable,
35 that addresses these targeted populations.

36 The department in developing rules for the early childhood program
37 shall consult with the (~~advisory~~) steering committee, and shall

1 consider such factors as coordination with existing head start and
2 other early childhood programs, the preparation necessary for
3 instructors, qualifications of instructors, adequate space and
4 equipment, and special transportation needs. The rules shall
5 specifically require the early childhood programs to provide for
6 parental involvement in participation with their child's program, in
7 local program policy decisions, in development and revision of service
8 delivery systems, and in parent education and training.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** The following acts or parts of acts are each
10 repealed:

11 (1) RCW 28A.215.140 (Advisory committee--Composition) and 1988 c
12 174 s 5 & 1985 c 418 s 5; and

13 (2) RCW 28A.215.190 (Expenses of advisory committee--Reimbursement)
14 and 1985 c 418 s 10.

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