
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 3168

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Goodman, Kagi, Walsh, Haler, Roberts, Pettigrew, Hinkle, Sullivan, Kessler, Green, Hudgins, Darneille, McIntire, Lias, Kelley, Kenney, Hankins, Nelson, Santos, and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of the Washington head start
2 program; adding new sections to chapter 43.215 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) The state is committed to providing early learning services to
7 all eligible economically disadvantaged families;

8 (b) Research has demonstrated that comprehensive services,
9 including family support services designed to meet the early education
10 needs of low-income and at-risk children, are successful in improving
11 school readiness, reducing the risk of juvenile delinquency and
12 incarceration, and reducing reliance on public assistance among these
13 children later in life;

14 (c) The state's early childhood education and assistance program
15 was originally established to serve as the state counterpart to the
16 federal head start program. When it was created, it aligned with the
17 federal program in both standards and funding levels;

18 (d) The state early childhood education and assistance program has
19 served an important role in providing comprehensive services to low-

1 income children. However, since it was first created, per-child
2 funding levels for the state program have not kept pace with funding
3 levels for the federal program. This has resulted in fewer service
4 hours for children and less intensive services for families;

5 (e) Aligning performance standards and funding levels for the state
6 early childhood education and assistance program with federal head
7 start will improve the quality of state-supported early learning
8 programs. Additionally, it will improve school readiness through
9 measures, such as a forty percent increase in class time, and it will
10 achieve administrative efficiencies and make state-supported services
11 more easily recognizable and accessible to parents and families
12 eligible for these programs; and

13 (f) Providing quality early learning services for children from
14 birth to age three is the most cost-effective investment society can
15 make. Additionally, the state can use the demonstrated results from
16 the federal early head start program as an example to expand its reach
17 of services already provided to three and four-year old children to
18 children in the critical birth to three years age category.

19 (2) Therefore, it is the goal of the legislature to establish the
20 Washington head start program to ensure that early learning services
21 continuously improve and to align the state early childhood education
22 and assistance program with the federal head start and early head start
23 programs by the year 2010. There should then be one integrated
24 Washington head start program implemented statewide, supported by both
25 state and federal funds.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department shall develop a plan to
27 implement a statewide Washington head start program. To the extent
28 possible while maintaining quality standards, the program should align
29 the state early childhood education and assistance program with federal
30 head start program eligibility criteria, guidelines, performance
31 standards, and methods/processes for ensuring continuous improvement in
32 program quality. In this plan, the department shall make
33 recommendations that:

34 (a) Identify federal head start program guidelines, performance
35 measures and standards, or other requirements for which state
36 flexibility would be recommended. This shall include an analysis of
37 how state flexibility may impact outcomes for children and how that

1 flexibility might deviate from outcomes associated with the federal
2 standards. Areas to be examined must include, but are not limited to,
3 transportation requirements, service hour configurations, delivery
4 methods, and impact on rural programs;

5 (b) Identify any change in the state early childhood education and
6 assistance program laws that would be required to implement a
7 Washington head start program;

8 (c) Identify additional resources needed to meet federal guidelines
9 and standards. Areas to be examined must include, but are not limited
10 to: Per-child funding levels, professional development and training
11 needs, facilities needs, and technical assistance;

12 (d) Identify state early childhood education and assistance
13 programs that offer full-day, full-year services to children, and what
14 steps need to be taken to transition these programs into a Washington
15 head start program;

16 (e) To the extent that state funds are provided for this purpose,
17 identify and report on the implementation of state-supported pilot
18 programs modeled on the federal early head start program.
19 Recommendations must include a timeline, strategy, and funding needs to
20 implement a statewide, state-supported early head start program that
21 will be a part of the Washington head start program; and

22 (f) Provide a process for the department to work the regional
23 office of federal head start to identify any exceptions or waivers
24 needed to provide flexibility and maintain high quality standards.

25 (2) In developing its recommendations for this plan, the department
26 shall seek, where appropriate and available, training or technical
27 assistance from the appropriate regional office of federal head start
28 in order to maximize nonstate resources that might be available for the
29 consultative work and research involved with developing this plan. The
30 department also shall consult with and solicit input from:

31 (a) State early childhood education and assistance program
32 providers on Indian reservations and across the state, including
33 providers who operate solely state-supported programs;

34 (b) Tribal governments operating head start programs and early head
35 start programs in the state to ensure that the needs of Indian and
36 Alaskan native children and their families are incorporated into the
37 recommendations of the plan, especially as they pertain to standards or

1 guidelines around language acquisition, school readiness, availability
2 and need for services among Indian and Alaskan native children and
3 their families, and curriculum development; and

4 (c) Providers operating migrant and seasonal head start programs in
5 the state in order to address the needs of the children of migrant and
6 seasonal farmworker families.

7 (3) The department shall make recommendations on how to
8 periodically review the standards and guidelines of the Washington head
9 start program, including how to incorporate the latest research and
10 information on early childhood development as well as any new
11 innovations that may further improve outcomes to low-income children
12 and their families.

13 (4) The department shall deliver its report to the governor and
14 legislature by December 1, 2008.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act are each added
16 to chapter 43.215 RCW.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
18 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
19 June 30, 2008, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
20 void.

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