
HOUSE BILL 2608

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Kagi, Orwall, Sullivan, Haigh, Maxwell, Kenney, and Tharinger; by request of Department of Early Learning

Read first time 01/18/12. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to adopting early learning guidelines; and
2 reenacting and amending RCW 43.215.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.215.020 and 2010 c 233 s 1, 2010 c 232 s 2, and
5 2010 c 231 s 6 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The department of early learning is created as an executive
7 branch agency. The department is vested with all powers and duties
8 transferred to it under this chapter and such other powers and duties
9 as may be authorized by law.

10 (2) The primary duties of the department are to implement state
11 early learning policy and to coordinate, consolidate, and integrate
12 child care and early learning programs in order to administer programs
13 and funding as efficiently as possible. The department's duties
14 include, but are not limited to, the following:

15 (a) To support both public and private sectors toward a
16 comprehensive and collaborative system of early learning that serves
17 parents, children, and providers and to encourage best practices in
18 child care and early learning programs;

1 (b) To make early learning resources available to parents and
2 caregivers;

3 (c) To carry out activities, including providing clear and easily
4 accessible information about quality and improving the quality of early
5 learning opportunities for young children, in cooperation with the
6 nongovernmental private-public partnership;

7 (d) To administer child care and early learning programs;

8 (e) To serve as the state lead agency for Part C of the federal
9 individuals with disabilities education act (IDEA);

10 (f) To standardize internal financial audits, oversight visits,
11 performance benchmarks, and licensing criteria, so that programs can
12 function in an integrated fashion;

13 (g) To support the implementation of the nongovernmental private-
14 public partnership and cooperate with that partnership in pursuing its
15 goals including providing data and support necessary for the successful
16 work of the partnership;

17 (h) To work cooperatively and in coordination with the early
18 learning council;

19 (i) To collaborate with the K-12 school system at the state and
20 local levels to ensure appropriate connections and smooth transitions
21 between early learning and K-12 programs;

22 (j) To develop and adopt rules for administration of the program of
23 early learning established in RCW 43.215.141;

24 (k) To develop a comprehensive birth-to-three plan to provide
25 education and support through a continuum of options including, but not
26 limited to, services such as: Home visiting; quality incentives for
27 infant and toddler child care subsidies; quality improvements for
28 family home and center-based child care programs serving infants and
29 toddlers; professional development; early literacy programs; and
30 informal supports for family, friend, and neighbor caregivers; (~~and~~)

31 (l) To develop and make widely available early learning guidelines,
32 in partnership with the office of the superintendent of public
33 instruction and the nongovernmental private-public partnership, and to
34 periodically review and revise the guidelines with a committee offering
35 broad stakeholder representation; and

36 (m) Upon the development of an early learning information system,
37 to make available to parents timely inspection and licensing action
38 information through the internet and other means.

1 (3) The department's programs shall be designed in a way that
2 respects and preserves the ability of parents and legal guardians to
3 direct the education, development, and upbringing of their children,
4 and that recognizes and honors cultural and linguistic diversity. The
5 department shall include parents and legal guardians in the development
6 of policies and program decisions affecting their children.

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