
**Early Learning & Human Services
Committee**

HB 2598

Brief Description: Clarifying the lead agency for the early support for infant and toddlers program.

Sponsors: Representative Kagi; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Specifies that the Department of Early Learning is the lead agency for the Early Support for Infant and Toddler Program.

Hearing Date: 2/3/14

Staff: Lindsay Lanham (786-7120).

Background:

In 2006 the Legislature enacted Substitute House Bill 1107, which required school districts to provide or contract for early intervention services to eligible children with disabilities from birth to three years of age. The program is known as the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT). The stated goal of the program is to enable young children to be active and successful participants during the early childhood years and in the future.

Eligibly for ESIT is determined according to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C program. Children from birth to three years of age who have been diagnosed with a disability or developmental delays are eligible to receive services through the ESIT program. Some examples of ESIT services include: specialized instruction, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy.

In 2010 the Department of Social and Health Services transferred lead agency responsibility to the Department of Early Learning.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill:

House Bill 2598 specifies that the lead agency for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program is the Department of Early Learning.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.