

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5809

As of February 21, 2013

Title: An act relating to the home visiting services account.

Brief Description: Changing provisions relating to the home visiting services account.

Sponsors: Senator Litzow.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 2/21/13.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Staff: Eric Wolf (786-7405)

Background: In 2006, the Legislature created a nongovernmental private-public partnership focused on investing in early learning. This partnership is known as Thrive by Five (Thrive).

In 2007, the Legislature directed the Council for Children and Families to develop a plan with the Department of Social and Health Services, Department of Health, and the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to coordinate or consolidate home visiting services, which were spread across multiple state agencies.

In 2010, the Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA) was created and is administered by DEL. The non-appropriated account contains a mixture of state and federal funds, which are used for home visiting activities aimed at enhancing child development and well-being, reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect, and promoting school readiness. Revenues to HVSA consist of appropriations by the Legislature and federal grants. DEL contracts with Thrive to administer programs funded through HVSA. Thrive funds programs using a competitive bid process and convenes an advisory committee of early learning and home visiting experts to advise Thrive regarding research and distribution of funds. Authorization for expenditures from HVSA can only be made after private matching funds are committed.

Summary of Bill: The HVSA is changed to an appropriated account. All federal funds received by DEL for home visiting must be deposited into HVSA.

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.

DEL is designated as overseeing HVSA and is the lead agency for home visiting system development. Thrive will administer the home visiting services delivery system and provide support to funded programs. Rather than having all private matching funds committed in advance, DEL's director and Thrive will determine annually the private match rate for public funds invested in the account. Thrive may fund programs through a competitive process or a process in compliance with regulations on the funding sources. Provisions related to the transition to the use of HVSA are removed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 20, 2013.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.