

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SSB 5999

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Addressing the caseload forecast council.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senator Darneille).

**Senate Committee on Ways & Means**  
**House Committee on Appropriations**

**Background:** The Essential Needs and Housing Support (ENHS) program was established in 2011 as a successor program to the Disability Lifeline program. The program provides housing vouchers and essential needs items, e.g. personal and home cleaning supplies, to persons who are determined by the Department of Social and Health Services to be unable to work for a period of at least 90 days due to physical or mental incapacity and who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. State funding is provided through the Department of Commerce to designated entities to serve a county. The designated entity must be a local government or community-based organization. The program's priority is to serve clients who are actually homeless.

RCW 43.185C.220 directs appropriations for the program to be based on a courtesy forecast by the Caseload Forecast Council (CFC) of the Medical Care Services (MCS) population that is actually homeless. MCS is a state-funded program that provides limited medical assistance for low-income adults who are unable to work for at least 90 days due to a physical or mental incapacity; however, the majority of this population has been included in health coverage through Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. The Legislature funds ENHS as a block grant. Because the ENHS program also serves persons who are at risk, but not actually homeless, the courtesy forecast does not represent the full population being served by the program.

The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) was created in 1985. Children eligible for ECEAP are those not eligible for kindergarten whose family income is at or below 110 percent of the federal poverty level – \$24,250 for a family of four – and those children whose families are eligible for public assistance. All eligible children must be served in the 2018-19 school year. The Department of Early Learning and the Office of Financial Management report to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature the funding necessary to achieve statewide implementation in the 2018-19 school year.

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*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.*

The CFC oversees the preparation of and approves official state caseloads. Caseloads project the number of persons expected to meet entitlement requirements and services for the following:

- public assistance programs;
- state correctional institutions;
- state institutions for juvenile offenders;
- the common school system;
- long-term care;
- medical assistance;
- foster care;
- adoption support; and
- the Washington College Bound Scholarship Program.

**Summary:** The CFC must forecast the number of children eligible for ECEAP. This requirement is removed from the Department of Early Learning and the Office of Financial Management. The requirement for the CFC to prepare a courtesy forecast for the ENHS program is removed.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

Senate	49	0
House	97	0

**Effective:** July 24, 2015