
HOUSE BILL 2716

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Senn, Walsh, Kagi, Walkinshaw, McCabe, Ortiz-Self, Bergquist, Stanford, Gregerson, Ormsby, and Goodman

Read first time 01/19/16. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to working connections child care eligibility for
2 vulnerable children; creating new sections; providing an effective
3 date; and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that children with
6 the greatest needs benefit significantly from child care programs
7 that promote stability, quality, and continuity of care. The
8 legislature recognizes that empirical evidence supports the
9 conclusion that high quality child care programs consistently yield
10 more positive outcomes for children, with the strongest positive
11 impacts on the most vulnerable children. The legislature finds that
12 the child care and development block grant act of 2014 allows the
13 department of early learning to provide working connections child
14 care to children in need of, or receiving, protective services. The
15 legislature further understands that beginning July 1, 2016,
16 authorizations for the working connections child care subsidy will be
17 effective for twelve months. The legislature intends to allow certain
18 populations of vulnerable children to be eligible for the working
19 connections child care subsidy for a minimum of twelve months.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The department of early learning shall
2 adopt rules, in accordance with Public Law 113-186, Sec.
3 10(4)(C)(ii), as it existed on January 1, 2016. The rules shall
4 provide for the following and such other matters the department deems
5 necessary for the proper implementation of this section:

6 (a) A requirement that a child is eligible for working
7 connections child care if the child has received child protective
8 services child care within the prior six months and the response the
9 department of social and health services initiated pursuant to
10 chapter 74.13, 74.15, or 26.44 RCW has concluded;

11 (b) A requirement that a child is eligible for working
12 connections child care within a six-month period following
13 reunification with the child's biological family from an out-of-home
14 placement;

15 (c) A definition of protective services that would only apply for
16 the purposes of working connections child care eligibility and would
17 not require the department of social and health services or the
18 department of early learning to automatically consider these children
19 to be in official child protective services as used in chapters 74.13
20 and 26.44 RCW. These children shall not be identified as needing a
21 response by the department of social and health services in
22 accordance with chapter 74.13, 74.15, or 26.44 RCW, or intervention
23 by the department of early learning, except in cases where that is
24 appropriate for reasons other than the inclusion of the child in the
25 new category of vulnerable child for purposes of working connections
26 child care eligibility; and

27 (d) A requirement that the department of social and health
28 service's involvement with the family referred for working
29 connections child care ends for purposes of child protective services
30 at the time that the response of the department of social and health
31 services initiated pursuant to chapter 74.13, 74.15, or 26.44 RCW has
32 concluded.

33 (2) This section expires July 1, 2018.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect December 1, 2017.

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