
HOUSE BILL 1639

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Ortiz-Self, Dent, Frame, Kagi, Goodman, Fey, and Doglio

Read first time 01/25/17. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a specialized child care pilot
2 program for vulnerable children; adding a new section to chapter
3 43.215 RCW; creating a new section; 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 in
6 early learning and child care programs who exhibit antisocial
7 behavior, including violence, verbal or physical abuse, or other
8 challenging behavior, are expelled at three times the rate of
9 children in K-12 environments.

10 The legislature further finds that training on trauma-informed
11 care will help teachers and administrators better serve most
12 children, however some children may need access to more intense care
13 and treatment. Developing specialized care and interventions for very
14 high needs children throughout our state is critical in ensuring that
15 these children are ready to enter kindergarten.

16 Therefore, in order to make informed and research-based
17 investments in early learning and child care, the legislature intends
18 to establish a pilot program for the department of early learning to
19 explore the results of specialized child care for children from birth
20 to five years of age.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.215
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Beginning September 1, 2017, the department must establish a
4 two-year pilot program in four licensed child care facilities to
5 provide multitiered behavior support, including specialized trauma
6 informed care, for children from birth to five years of age.

7 (2) The pilot sites must:

8 (a) Reserve at least fifty percent of their slots for children
9 who have experienced an adverse childhood experience as defined in
10 RCW 70.305.010;

11 (b) Participate in an evaluation study at the end of the pilot
12 program to assess the effectiveness of the program;

13 (c) Agree to a nonexpulsion policy for children;

14 (d) Keep records on social, emotional, and behavioral development
15 for the children participating in the program; and

16 (e) Keep records on discipline outcomes for the children
17 participating in the program.

18 (3) The department must select pilot sites that equally represent
19 urban and rural areas. The department must select at least one site
20 located east of the Cascade mountains and at least one site located
21 west of the Cascade mountains.

22 (4) The department must submit an evaluation of the results of
23 the pilot program to the governor and the appropriate committees of
24 the legislature in accordance with RCW 43.01.036 by December 1, 2019.

25 (5) The department must design the pilot program and evaluation
26 report in such a way as to be able to report on:

27 (a) The optimal staffing levels and necessary staff support for
28 effectively working with high needs children in a child care or early
29 learning environment;

30 (b) Necessary support for children's families in order to ensure
31 child success;

32 (c) Recommendations for how best to transition children to other
33 schools or programs; and

34 (d) How to best serve high needs children across the state.

35 (6) For the purposes of this section, "multitiered behavior
36 support" means a framework of progressive interventions and positive
37 behavioral supports that address a child's social and emotional
38 needs.

1 (7) This section expires January 1, 2020.

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