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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1758**

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**State of Washington**

**65th Legislature**

**2017 Regular Session**

**By** House Early Learning & Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Senn, Ryu, Kraft, Springer, Kagi, Farrell, Pollet, Griffey, Caldier, and Jinkins)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting the business of child care; adding  
2 new sections to chapter 43.215 RCW; creating new sections; and  
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that early  
6 learning is a critical part of every child's education, and the  
7 quality of early education impacts long-term performance. Since 2011,  
8 Washington has suffered from a net decline of about one thousand five  
9 hundred licensed providers. This accounts for a twenty-one percent  
10 decline in the overall supply of child care. Washington ranks third  
11 in the nation for least affordable child care for an infant in family  
12 child care, and sixth in the nation for least affordable child care  
13 for an infant in a child care center. The annualized cost of an  
14 infant in a child care center is greater than fifty percent of the  
15 state median income for mothers.

16 The legislature also finds that there is a critical need to  
17 increase the capacity of the child care system to meet the state's  
18 mandate to provide early childhood education and assistance program  
19 services to the more than seven thousand additional eligible children  
20 by the 2020-21 school year.

1 The legislature also finds that child care workers in the state  
2 have been at or near the minimum wage for decades despite efforts to  
3 increase standards, credentialing, and support. Washington's wages  
4 for child care providers are in the third percentile of occupations  
5 ranked by annual earnings in 2015 and nearly forty percent of child  
6 care providers are on public assistance themselves.

7 (2) The legislature intends to create incentives to support early  
8 learning providers with the goal of making the business of child care  
9 sustainable, rewarding, and mutually beneficial for providers,  
10 children, parents, and the state.

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

13 (1) The department shall contract with a nonprofit entity that  
14 provides quality improvement services to participants in the early  
15 achievers program to develop, in consultation with the community and  
16 technical college system, a community-based training module for  
17 licensed child care providers. The training module must train  
18 providers specifically in managing and sustaining a child care  
19 business.

20 (2) The training module must be offered to providers as a pilot  
21 program in at least four communities: An urban community, a rural  
22 community, a community with a high number of monolingual Spanish  
23 speaking licensed child care providers, and a community with a high  
24 number of monolingual Somali speaking licensed child care providers.  
25 The department must select the communities where the training modules  
26 will be offered.

27 (3) Training must be provided by state-approved trainers listed  
28 in the managed education registry information tool and associated in  
29 the managed education registry information tool with the identified  
30 agency. The department must offer reimbursement for training taken  
31 from state-approved trainers. Professionals who work in department  
32 licensed or certified child care facilities and have confirmed or  
33 verified their employment record may access reimbursement within  
34 available funds through their managed education registry information  
35 tool professional record.

36 (4) As part of the review of the state early childhood  
37 certificates under the pilot program created in this section, the  
38 business of child care training and new child care and development  
39 fund requirements must be conducted to ensure there is not

1 duplication of services. The department, the state board for  
2 community and technical colleges, and the nonprofit entity with whom  
3 the department is contracting must work together in conducting the  
4 review. The review must provide recommendations for how the business  
5 of child care training should be delivered in the future.

6 (5) Upon completion of the first cohort of providers receiving  
7 training under the pilot program in the four communities, but no  
8 later than July 1, 2019, the training module must be made available  
9 statewide for all licensed child care providers.

10 (6) The training module must be functionally translated into  
11 languages other than English, particularly for licensed child care  
12 providers who speak Spanish and Somali.

13 (7) At the next update of the state comprehensive plan for  
14 workforce training and education, the department must assist the  
15 workforce training and education coordinating board with assessing  
16 the need for early learning providers to receive support and training  
17 in the managing and running of a child care business. As part of its  
18 duties of planning, coordinating, evaluating, and monitoring  
19 statewide workforce training, the workforce board shall ensure that  
20 local workforce development councils have plans that emphasize  
21 business training for early learning providers. Local workforce  
22 development councils may, where appropriate, utilize training modules  
23 created under this section and under section 3 of this act.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.215  
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 (1) Upon completion of the pilot program created in section 2 of  
27 this act, the department must collaborate with the state board for  
28 community and technical colleges to align all or parts of the  
29 training module created in section 2 of this act with course outcomes  
30 identified in one or more early childhood education classes that may  
31 be offered by the community and technical colleges. The department  
32 and the state board for community and technical colleges must consult  
33 with the nonprofit entity in integrating training module content in  
34 early childhood education curriculum. This section does not create  
35 any new requirements for receiving a certification in a program.

36 (2) The state board must work with community and technical  
37 college early childhood education programs to incorporate outcomes  
38 related to managing and sustaining a child care business into its  
39 early childhood education curriculum by fall quarter of the 2020

1 academic year. This course will be an elective and not a required  
2 course.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The child care workforce and business  
4 development work group is created. The purpose of the work group is  
5 to address improving the stability of the early learning workforce  
6 and sustaining and expanding access to high quality care throughout  
7 the state.

8 (2) The department of early learning shall convene and provide  
9 staff support for the work group. The work group shall consist of no  
10 more than twenty-two members. The department of early learning shall  
11 consult with advocates and stakeholders of the early learning  
12 workforce when selecting members to serve on the work group. The work  
13 group must choose its cochairs from its membership. Membership of the  
14 work group must be comprised of representatives from the following  
15 organizations and entities:

- 16 (a) The statewide child care resource and referral network;
- 17 (b) The department;
- 18 (c) The department of commerce;
- 19 (d) A coalition of organizations representing nonprofits,  
20 professional associations, businesses, and industries in early  
21 learning;
- 22 (e) The economic opportunity institute;
- 23 (f) The department of labor and industries;
- 24 (g) The state board for community and technical colleges;
- 25 (h) An existing early learning training program at a community or  
26 technical college;
- 27 (i) A union representing child care workers;
- 28 (j) Two members consisting of either economists, representatives  
29 of workforce development councils, or any combination thereof;
- 30 (k) The small business administration;
- 31 (l) A parent;
- 32 (m) No more than seven child care providers consisting of any  
33 combination of the following: A representative of a private child  
34 care center, a representative of a nonprofit child care center, a  
35 teacher, a director, an early childhood education and assistance  
36 program provider, a head start provider, a military child care  
37 provider, and a tribal care provider;

1 (n) An organization that provides culturally responsive services  
2 for early childhood education and awareness in East African  
3 communities; and

4 (o) An organization that provides culturally responsive services  
5 for early childhood education and awareness in Spanish speaking  
6 communities.

7 (3) The work group must develop recommendations for the  
8 legislature and the early childhood education industry that will  
9 address the issues of poverty wages, high turnover, and the loss of  
10 highly qualified members of the early learning workforce.  
11 Recommendations must address, but not be limited to, the following:

12 (a) The career and wage ladder;

13 (b) Tax incentives;

14 (c) Facility acquisition;

15 (d) Streamlining regulations in a manner that is cost-effective  
16 and not punitive;

17 (e) Public reimbursement rates;

18 (f) Private rates;

19 (g) Public investment;

20 (h) Maintaining and increasing racial and ethnic equity and  
21 diversity in the workforce;

22 (i) Missing or duplicative skills and trainings for the  
23 workforce; and

24 (j) Cultural competency and multilingualism as forms of  
25 qualification.

26 (4) The work group must submit an interim progress report to the  
27 appropriate committees of the legislature by June 30, 2018. The work  
28 group must submit a final report to the appropriate committees of the  
29 legislature by December 1, 2018. The final report must contain  
30 recommendations and a plan for the implementation of the work group's  
31 recommendations.

32 (5) This section expires June 30, 2019.

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