
HOUSE BILL 2659

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Goodman, Kagi, Lovick, Kilduff, Appleton, Valdez, Ortiz-Self, Wylie, Hudgins, Senn, McBride, Doglio, Pettigrew, and Frame

Read first time 01/11/18. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding eligibility for the early childhood
2 education and assistance program; amending RCW 43.216.505,
3 43.216.556, and 43.88C.010; and providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.216.505 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 6 s 210 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
8 this section apply throughout RCW 43.216.500 through 43.216.559,
9 43.216.900, and 43.216.901.

10 (1) "Advisory committee" means the advisory committee under RCW
11 43.216.520.

12 (2) "Approved programs" means those state-supported education and
13 special assistance programs which are recognized by the department as
14 meeting the minimum program rules adopted by the department to
15 qualify under RCW 43.216.500 through 43.216.550, 43.216.900, and
16 43.216.901 and are designated as eligible for funding by the
17 department under RCW 43.216.530 and 43.216.540.

18 (3) "Comprehensive" means an assistance program that focuses on
19 the needs of the child and includes education, health, and family
20 support services.

1 (4) "Eligible child" means a child not eligible for kindergarten
2 whose family income is at or below one hundred (~~ten~~) eighty-five
3 percent of the federal poverty level, as published annually by the
4 federal department of health and human services, and includes a child
5 whose family is eligible for public assistance, and who is not a
6 participant in a federal or state program providing comprehensive
7 services; a child eligible for special education due to disability
8 under RCW 28A.155.020; and may include children who are eligible
9 under rules adopted by the department if the number of such children
10 equals not more than ten percent of the total enrollment in the early
11 childhood program. Priority for enrollment shall be given to children
12 from families with the lowest income, children in foster care,
13 children who are members of a federally recognized tribe, or to
14 eligible children from families with multiple needs.

15 (5) "Family support services" means providing opportunities for
16 parents to:

17 (a) Actively participate in their child's early childhood
18 program;

19 (b) Increase their knowledge of child development and parenting
20 skills;

21 (c) Further their education and training;

22 (d) Increase their ability to use needed services in the
23 community;

24 (e) Increase their self-reliance.

25 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.216.556 and 2017 3rd sp.s. c 22 s 1 are each
26 amended to read as follows:

27 (1) Funding for the program of early learning established under
28 this chapter must be appropriated to the department. Allocations must
29 be made on the basis of eligible children enrolled with eligible
30 providers.

31 (2) The program shall be implemented in phases, so that full
32 implementation is achieved in the (~~2022-23~~) 2028-29 school year.

33 (3) For the initial phase of the early learning program in school
34 years 2011-12 and 2012-13, the legislature shall appropriate funding
35 to the department for implementation of the program in an amount not
36 less than the 2009-2011 enacted budget for the early childhood
37 education and assistance program. The appropriation shall be
38 sufficient to fund an equivalent number of slots as funded in the
39 2009-2011 enacted budget.

1 (4) Beginning in the 2013-14 school year, additional funding for
2 the program must be phased in beginning in school districts providing
3 all-day kindergarten programs under RCW 28A.150.315.

4 (5)(a) Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, funding for the
5 program must be phased in based on the forecasted caseload of
6 children eligible and projected to participate prepared under chapter
7 43.88C RCW and according to the following schedule:

8 (i) No less than forty percent of the caseload in the 2019-2021
9 biennium;

10 (ii) No less than fifty percent of the caseload in the 2021-2023
11 biennium;

12 (iii) No less than sixty-five percent of the caseload in the
13 2023-2025 biennium;

14 (iv) No less than eighty percent of the caseload in the 2025-2027
15 biennium; and

16 (v) No less than one hundred percent of the caseload in the
17 2027-2029 biennium.

18 (b) The department shall prioritize eligible children for
19 enrollment according to a system of risk factors and priority points
20 adopted by the department in rule. The priority system must include
21 the populations identified in RCW 43.216.505(4) and consideration of
22 the following risk factors:

23 (i) Child welfare system involvement;

24 (ii) Developmental delay or disability;

25 (iii) Domestic violence;

26 (iv) English as a second language;

27 (v) Expulsion from an early learning setting;

28 (vi) Homelessness;

29 (vii) A parent who is or has been incarcerated; and

30 (viii) A parent with a substance abuse or mental health treatment
31 need.

32 (6) Funding shall continue to be phased in each year until full
33 statewide implementation of the early learning program is achieved in
34 the ((2022-23)) 2028-29 school year, at which time any eligible child
35 shall be entitled to be enrolled in the program.

36 ((+6+)) (7) School districts and approved community-based early
37 learning providers may contract with the department to provide
38 services under the program. The department shall collaborate with
39 school districts, community-based providers, and educational service
40 districts to promote an adequate supply of approved providers.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.88C.010 and 2015 c 128 s 2 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The caseload forecast council is hereby created. The council
4 shall consist of two individuals appointed by the governor and four
5 individuals, one of whom is appointed by the chairperson of each of
6 the two largest political caucuses in the senate and house of
7 representatives. The chair of the council shall be selected from
8 among the four caucus appointees. The council may select such other
9 officers as the members deem necessary.

10 (2) The council shall employ a caseload forecast supervisor to
11 supervise the preparation of all caseload forecasts. As used in this
12 chapter, "supervisor" means the caseload forecast supervisor.

13 (3) Approval by an affirmative vote of at least five members of
14 the council is required for any decisions regarding employment of the
15 supervisor. Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after each
16 term of three years. At the end of the first year of each three-year
17 term the council shall consider extension of the supervisor's term by
18 one year. The council may fix the compensation of the supervisor. The
19 supervisor shall employ staff sufficient to accomplish the purposes
20 of this section.

21 (4) The caseload forecast council shall oversee the preparation
22 of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least four members, the
23 official state caseload forecasts prepared under RCW 43.88C.020. If
24 the council is unable to approve a forecast before a date required in
25 RCW 43.88C.020, the supervisor shall submit the forecast without
26 approval and the forecast shall have the same effect as if approved
27 by the council.

28 (5) A councilmember who does not cast an affirmative vote for
29 approval of the official caseload forecast may request, and the
30 supervisor shall provide, an alternative forecast based on
31 assumptions specified by the member.

32 (6) Members of the caseload forecast council shall serve without
33 additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses
34 in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the
35 council or on official business authorized by the council.
36 Nonlegislative members of the council shall be reimbursed for travel
37 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

38 (7) "Caseload," as used in this chapter, means:

39 (a) The number of persons expected to meet entitlement
40 requirements and require the services of public assistance programs,

1 state correctional institutions, state correctional noninstitutional
2 supervision, state institutions for juvenile offenders, the common
3 school system, long-term care, medical assistance, foster care, and
4 adoption support;

5 (b) The number of students who are eligible for the Washington
6 college bound scholarship program and are expected to attend an
7 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.92.030;

8 (c) The number of children who are eligible, as defined in RCW
9 (~~43.215.405~~) 43.216.505, to participate in, and the number of
10 children actually served by, the early childhood education and
11 assistance program.

12 (8) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the temporary
13 assistance for needy families and the working connections child care
14 programs as a courtesy.

15 (9) The caseload forecast council shall forecast youth
16 participating in the extended foster care program pursuant to RCW
17 74.13.031 separately from other children who are residing in foster
18 care and who are under eighteen years of age.

19 (10) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the
20 definitions provided in RCW 43.88.020 apply to this chapter.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect July 1, 2018.

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