
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5107

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Billig, Fain, Rolfes, Wellman, Walsh, Zeiger, Lias, Cleveland, Hunt, Conway, Saldaña, Kuderer, and Mullet)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a local pathway for local
2 governments, school districts, institutions of higher education, and
3 nonprofit organizations to provide more high quality early learning
4 opportunities by reducing barriers and increasing efficiency;
5 amending RCW 43.215.099, 43.215.410, and 43.215.195; adding a new
6 section to chapter 43.215 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that local
9 governments, school districts, institutions of higher education as
10 defined in RCW 28B.10.016, and nonprofit organizations play an
11 important role in strengthening the early care and education systems
12 in the state. The legislature acknowledges that these entities may
13 face barriers to investing in early care and education programs. The
14 legislature intends to create a local pathway to high quality early
15 learning to help these entities understand how they can use
16 additional local and private funds with existing funds to expand
17 access, increase quality, and extend hours for existing programs. The
18 legislature intends for this local pathway to reduce barriers and
19 increase efficiency to provide more high quality early learning
20 opportunities.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.215.099 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 7 s 15 are each
2 amended to read as follows:

3 (1) The foundation of quality in the early care and education
4 system in Washington is the quality rating and improvement system
5 entitled the early achievers program. In an effort to build on the
6 existing quality framework, enhance access to quality care for
7 children, and strengthen the entire early care and education systems
8 in the state, it is important to integrate the efforts of state and
9 local governments, school districts, institutions of higher education
10 as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, and nonprofit organizations.

11 (2) Local governments, school districts, institutions of higher
12 education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, and nonprofit organizations
13 are encouraged to collaborate with the department when establishing
14 and strengthening early learning programs for residents.

15 (3) Local governments, school districts, institutions of higher
16 education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, and nonprofit organizations
17 may contribute funds to the department for the following purposes:

18 (a) Initial investments to build capacity and quality in local
19 early care and education programming; (~~and~~)

20 (b) Reductions in copayments charged to parents or caregivers;

21 (c) To expand access and increase slots in early care and
22 education programs;

23 (d) To increase quality for early care and education programs;
24 and

25 (e) To extend hours in early care and education programs.

26 (4) Funds contributed to the department by local governments,
27 school districts, institutions of higher education as defined in RCW
28 28B.10.016, and nonprofit organizations must be deposited in the
29 early start account established in RCW 43.215.195.

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

32 (1) The department shall create a local pathway to high quality
33 early learning to help local governments, school districts,
34 institutions of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016,
35 nonprofit organizations, and early learning providers use additional
36 local or private funds, or both, to expand access, increase quality,
37 and extend hours for the early childhood education and assistance
38 program.

1 (2) The local pathway must reduce barriers and increase
2 efficiency for using local or private funds, or both, to provide more
3 high quality early learning opportunities.

4 (3) The local pathway must include, but is not limited to, the
5 following to help local governments, school districts, institutions
6 of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, and nonprofit
7 organizations:

8 (a) A needs assessment to determine where investments in early
9 learning are needed and feasible;

10 (b) A funding tool to estimate the local or private cost of
11 expanding access, increasing quality, and extending hours for the
12 early childhood education and assistance program; and

13 (c) Technical assistance for using local or private funds, or
14 both, with existing funds in the early childhood education and
15 assistance program.

16 (4) The local pathway must include, but is not limited to, the
17 following to help early learning providers:

18 (a) Information on how to best work with local governments,
19 school districts, institutions of higher education as defined in RCW
20 28B.10.016, and nonprofit organizations to expand access, increase
21 quality, and extend hours for the early childhood education and
22 assistance program;

23 (b) Training and technical assistance for using local or private
24 funds, or both, with existing funds in the early childhood education
25 and assistance program; and

26 (c) Training and technical assistance for creating mixed-income
27 programs, including children using private pay.

28 (5) For the 2017-18 school year, the local pathway must be
29 available to a maximum of five entities, which can include local
30 governments, school districts, institutions of higher education as
31 defined in RCW 28B.10.016, and nonprofit organizations, that want to
32 expand access, increase quality, and extend hours for existing early
33 childhood education and assistance program contractors in good
34 standing. In future years, the number of local governments, school
35 districts, institutions of higher education as defined in RCW
36 28B.10.016, nonprofit organizations, and early childhood education
37 and assistance program contractors that use the local pathway is not
38 limited.

39 (6)(a) By December 1, 2018, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
40 the department must submit a report to the appropriate committees of

1 the legislature describing the effectiveness of the local pathway.
2 The report must describe what is needed to expand the local pathway
3 to help local governments, school districts, institutions of higher
4 education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, nonprofit organizations, and
5 early learning providers throughout the state. The report must
6 include a plan for incorporating working connections child care and
7 home visiting into the local pathway.

8 (b) By December 1, 2017, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
9 the department must submit a preliminary report to the appropriate
10 committees of the legislature that describes the department's
11 progress on the topics described in (a) of this subsection.

12 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.215.410 and 2006 c 265 s 211 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 The department shall administer a state-supported early childhood
15 education and assistance program to assist eligible children with
16 educational, social, health, nutritional, and cultural development to
17 enhance their opportunity for success in the common school system.
18 Eligible children shall be admitted to approved early childhood
19 programs to the extent that the legislature provides funds, and
20 additional ~~((eligible))~~ children may be admitted to the extent that
21 grants and contributions from community sources provide sufficient
22 funds for a program equivalent to that supported by state funds.
23 Grants and contributions from community sources shall not supplant
24 the funding required for the full statewide implementation of the
25 early learning program in RCW 43.215.456.

26 **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.215.195 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 7 s 17 are each
27 amended to read as follows:

28 (1) The early start account is created in the custody of the
29 state ~~((treasury))~~ treasurer. Revenues in the account shall consist
30 of appropriations by the legislature and all other sources deposited
31 into the account. ~~((Moneys in the account may only be used after~~
32 appropriation-)) Expenditures from the account may be used only ~~((to~~
33 improve the quality of early care and education programming)) for the
34 purposes listed in RCW 43.215.099. All receipts from local
35 governments, school districts, institutions of higher education as
36 defined in RCW 28B.10.016, and nonprofit organizations must be
37 deposited into the account.

1 (2) The department oversees the account. Only the director or the
2 director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The
3 account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW,
4 but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

5 (3) The department shall separately track funds received for each
6 local government, school district, institution of higher education as
7 defined in RCW 28B.10.016, or nonprofit organization that deposits
8 funds into the account. Expenditures from these funds may be used
9 only for the purposes listed in RCW 43.215.099 as identified in
10 writing with the department by the contributing local government,
11 school district, institution of higher education as defined in RCW
12 28B.10.016, or nonprofit organization.

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