

---

SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5107

---

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

**By** Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Billig, Fain, Rolfes, Wellman, Walsh, Zeiger, Liiias, Cleveland, Hunt, Conway, Saldaña, Kuderer, and Mullet)

READ FIRST TIME 02/24/17.

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 for existing programs. The legislature intends for this local  
18 pathway to reduce barriers and increase efficiency to provide more  
19 high quality early learning 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 eligibility in the early childhood  
22 education and assistance program.

23       (4) Funds contributed to the department by local governments,  
24 school districts, institutions of higher education as defined in RCW  
25 28B.10.016, and nonprofit organizations must be deposited in the  
26 early start account established in RCW 43.215.195.

27       (5) Children enrolled in the early childhood education and  
28 assistance program with funds contributed in accordance with  
29 subsection (3)(c) of this section are not considered to be eligible  
30 children as defined in RCW 43.215.405 and are not considered to be  
31 part of the state-funded entitlement required in RCW 43.215.456.

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

34       To the greatest extent possible, the department must reduce  
35 barriers and increase efficiency for using local or private funds, or  
36 both, to provide more high quality early learning opportunities.

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

1 The department shall administer a state-supported early childhood  
2 education and assistance program to assist eligible children with  
3 educational, social, health, nutritional, and cultural development to  
4 enhance their opportunity for success in the common school system.  
5 Eligible children shall be admitted to approved early childhood  
6 programs to the extent that the legislature provides funds, and  
7 additional ~~((eligible))~~ children may be admitted to the extent that  
8 grants and contributions from community sources provide sufficient  
9 funds for a program equivalent to that supported by state funds.  
10 Grants and contributions from community sources shall not supplant  
11 the funding required for the full statewide implementation of the  
12 early learning program in RCW 43.215.456.

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

15 (1) The early start account is created in the custody of the  
16 state ~~((treasury))~~ treasurer. Revenues in the account shall consist  
17 of appropriations by the legislature and all other sources deposited  
18 into the account. ~~((Moneys in the account may only be used after~~  
19 appropriation.)) Expenditures from the account may be used only ~~((to~~  
20 improve the quality of early care and education programming)) for the  
21 purposes listed in RCW 43.215.099. All receipts from local  
22 governments, school districts, institutions of higher education as  
23 defined in RCW 28B.10.016, and nonprofit organizations must be  
24 deposited into the account.

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

29 (3) The department shall separately track funds received for each  
30 local government, school district, institution of higher education as  
31 defined in RCW 28B.10.016, or nonprofit organization that deposits  
32 funds into the account. Expenditures from these funds may be used  
33 only for the purposes listed in RCW 43.215.099 as identified in  
34 writing with the department by the contributing local government,  
35 school district, institution of higher education as defined in RCW  
36 28B.10.016, or nonprofit organization.

--- END ---