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**SENATE BILL 5107**

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**State of Washington**

**65th Legislature**

**2017 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Billig, Fain, Rolfes, Wellman, Walsh, Zeiger, Lias, Cleveland, Hunt, Conway, Saldaña, Kuderer, and Mullet

Read first time 01/12/17. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a local pathway for local  
2 governments, school districts, and nonprofit organizations to provide  
3 more high quality early learning opportunities by reducing barriers  
4 and increasing efficiency; amending RCW 43.215.099, 43.215.410, and  
5 43.215.195; adding a new section to chapter 43.215 RCW; and creating  
6 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, and nonprofit organizations play an  
10 important role in strengthening the early care and education systems  
11 in the state. The legislature acknowledges that these entities may  
12 face barriers to investing in early care and education programs. The  
13 legislature intends to create a local pathway to high quality early  
14 learning to help these entities understand how they can use  
15 additional local and private funds with existing funds to expand  
16 access, increase quality, and extend hours for existing programs. The  
17 legislature intends for this local pathway to reduce barriers and  
18 increase efficiency to provide more high quality early learning  
19 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, and nonprofit organizations.

10       (2) Local governments, school districts, and nonprofit  
11 organizations are encouraged to collaborate with the department when  
12 establishing and strengthening early learning programs for residents.

13       (3) Local governments, school districts, and nonprofit  
14 organizations may contribute funds to the department for the  
15 following purposes:

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

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

19       (c) To expand access and increase slots in early care and  
20 education programs;

21       (d) To increase quality for early care and education programs;  
22 and

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

24       (4) Funds contributed to the department by local governments,  
25 school districts, and nonprofit organizations must be deposited in  
26 the early start account established in RCW 43.215.195.

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

29       (1) The department shall create a local pathway to high quality  
30 early learning to help local governments, school districts, nonprofit  
31 organizations, and early learning providers use additional local or  
32 private funds, or both, to expand access, increase quality, and  
33 extend hours for existing early care and education programs. These  
34 programs must include the early childhood state education and  
35 assistance program, working connections child care program, and home  
36 visiting program.

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

1 (3) The local pathway must include, but is not limited to, the  
2 following to help local governments, school districts, and nonprofit  
3 organizations:

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

6 (b) A funding tool to estimate the local or private cost of  
7 expanding access, increasing quality, and extending hours for the  
8 early childhood state education and assistance program, working  
9 connections child care program, and home visiting program; and

10 (c) Technical assistance for using local or private funds, or  
11 both, with existing funds in the early childhood state education and  
12 assistance program, working connections child care program, and home  
13 visiting program.

14 (4) The local pathway must include, but is not limited to, the  
15 following to help early learning providers, including home visiting  
16 providers:

17 (a) Information on how to best work with local governments,  
18 school districts, and nonprofit organizations to expand access,  
19 increase quality, and extend hours for early care and education  
20 programs;

21 (b) Training and technical assistance for using local or private  
22 funds, or both, with existing funds in the early childhood state  
23 education and assistance program, working connections child care  
24 program, and home visiting program; and

25 (c) Training and technical assistance for creating mixed-income  
26 programs, including children using private pay or participating in  
27 the early childhood education and assistance program, head start, or  
28 working connections child care.

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

31 The department shall administer a state-supported early childhood  
32 education and assistance program to assist eligible children with  
33 educational, social, health, nutritional, and cultural development to  
34 enhance their opportunity for success in the common school system.  
35 Eligible children shall be admitted to approved early childhood  
36 programs to the extent that the legislature provides funds, and  
37 additional ((eligible)) children may be admitted to the extent that  
38 grants and contributions from community sources provide sufficient  
39 funds for a program equivalent to that supported by state funds.

1 Grants and contributions from community sources shall not supplant  
2 the funding required for the full statewide implementation of the  
3 early learning program in RCW 43.215.456.

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

6 (1) The early start account is created in the custody of the  
7 state (~~(treasury)) treasurer.~~ Revenues in the account shall consist  
8 of appropriations by the legislature and all other sources deposited  
9 into the account. (~~(Moneys in the account may only be used after~~  
10 ~~appropriation.)~~) Expenditures from the account may be used only (~~(to~~  
11 ~~improve the quality of early care and education programming)) for the  
12 purposes listed in RCW 43.215.099. All receipts from local  
13 governments, school districts, and nonprofit organizations must be  
14 deposited into the account.~~

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

19 (3) The department shall separately track funds received for each  
20 local government, school district, or nonprofit organization that  
21 deposits funds into the account. Expenditures from these funds may be  
22 used only for the purposes listed in RCW 43.215.099 as identified in  
23 writing with the department by the contributing local government,  
24 school district, or nonprofit organization.

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