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SENATE BILL 6403

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senators Wellman, Chase, Van De Wege, Cleveland, Conway, Saldaña, Hunt, and Kuderer

Read first time 01/16/18. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting the business of child care; adding  
2 new sections to chapter 43.216 RCW; creating a new section; and  
3 providing an effective 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 six  
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 seventh 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 single mothers. The legislature further finds  
16 that some areas of the state are experiencing a lack of child care  
17 supply, creating challenges for working parents and employers. This  
18 shortage is a growth opportunity for the child care industry and  
19 developing an adequate supply of quality child care will contribute  
20 to the economic success of our state.

1 (2) The legislature intends to support early learning providers  
2 with the goal of making the business of child care sustainable and  
3 mutually beneficial for providers, children, parents, and the state.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The department shall develop, in consultation with the  
7 statewide child care resource and referral network and the community  
8 and technical college system, a community-based training module for  
9 child care providers and entrepreneurs interested in developing such  
10 a business. The training module must train providers and  
11 entrepreneurs specifically in managing and sustaining a child care  
12 business and include information about budgeting, marketing, human  
13 resources, and securing funding.

14 (2) The training module must be offered to providers and  
15 entrepreneurs as a pilot program in at least four communities: An  
16 urban community, a rural community, a community with a high number of  
17 monolingual Spanish-speaking child care providers, and a community  
18 with a high number of monolingual Somali-speaking child care  
19 providers. The department must select the communities where the  
20 training modules will be offered.

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

30 (4) As part of the review of the state early childhood  
31 certificates under section 3 of this act, the business of child care  
32 training and implementation of child care and development fund  
33 requirements must be conducted to ensure there is not duplication of  
34 services. The department and the state board for community and  
35 technical colleges must work together in conducting the review. The  
36 review must provide recommendations for how the business of child  
37 care training should be delivered in the future.

38 (5) Upon completion of the first cohort of providers receiving  
39 training under the pilot program in the four communities, but no

1 later than July 1, 2021, the training module must be made available  
2 statewide for all child care providers and entrepreneurs.

3 (6) The training module must be functionally translated into  
4 languages other than English, particularly for child care providers  
5 who speak Spanish and Somali.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Upon completion of the pilot program created in section 2 of  
9 this act, the department must collaborate with the state board for  
10 community and technical colleges to align all or parts of the  
11 training module created in section 2 of this act with course outcomes  
12 identified in one or more early childhood education classes that may  
13 be offered by the community and technical colleges. The department  
14 and the state board for community and technical colleges must  
15 integrate training module content in early childhood education  
16 curriculum. This section does not create any new requirements for  
17 receiving a certification in a program, however the training module  
18 content must be incorporated into courses related to stackable  
19 certificates in early childhood education as offered by participating  
20 community and technical colleges.

21 (2) The state board must work with community and technical  
22 college early childhood education programs to incorporate outcomes  
23 related to managing and sustaining a child care business into its  
24 early childhood education curriculum by fall quarter of the 2021  
25 academic year. This course will be an elective and not a required  
26 course.

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

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