

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6540

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Early Learning & K-12 Education, February 7, 2020

**Title:** An act relating to working connections child care payment authorizations.

**Brief Description:** Concerning working connections child care payment authorizations.

**Sponsors:** Senators Wilson, C., Wellman, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Kuderer and Saldaña.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/31/20, 2/07/20 [DP-WM, w/oRec].

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Begins a household's 12-month authorization for the Working Connections Child Care program on the first day a child receives care from an authorized child care provider.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Wellman, Chair; Wilson, C., Vice Chair; Hunt, McCoy, Mullet, Pedersen and Salomon.

**Minority Report:** That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senators Hawkins, Ranking Member; Holy, Padden and Wagoner.

**Staff:** Ailey Kato (786-7434)

**Background:** Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) is a federally and state-funded program providing child care subsidies to families with an income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level—\$43,440 for a family of three. The state pays part of the cost of child care when a parent is employed, self-employed, or in approved activities, except in certain circumstances. The family is responsible for making a copayment to the child care provider based on the family's countable income.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

Authorizations for WCCC subsidy are effective for 12 months. Under rule, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) begins the 12-month period when the parent has completed the required WCCC application and verification process and is working or participating in an approved activity.

**Summary of Bill:** A household's 12-month authorization period begins on the first day a child receives care from an authorized child care provider. If a newly eligible household does not begin care within 12 months of being determined eligible, the household must reapply in order to qualify for subsidy.

Existing statutory language is moved into a new section.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: This bill provides a 12-month window of opportunity for child care. Currently, the 12-month clock starts before a family may actually be able to find care.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Claire Wilson, Prime Sponsor.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.