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**HOUSE BILL 2284**

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**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2020 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives McCaslin, Dent, Pollet, and Tharinger

Prefiled 01/02/20. Read first time 01/13/20. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Early Learning.

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting the cost-effective professional  
2 development of early learning providers; amending RCW 43.216.110 and  
3 43.216.255; adding a new section to chapter 43.216 RCW; and creating  
4 a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the department  
7 of children, youth, and families has adopted new staff qualifications  
8 for early learning providers that require higher education. The  
9 legislature further finds that many early learning providers have  
10 been engaged in the child care profession for years and provide safe,  
11 nurturing, and quality care without such formal education. The  
12 department of children, youth, and families has been a leader in  
13 effectively furthering public awareness of the importance of early  
14 learning and the support that early learning providers require.  
15 Further, the legislature recognizes that the time and costs  
16 associated with earning college credits can be burdensome to  
17 providers, particularly those providers in rural communities.  
18 Therefore, the legislature intends to support the economic viability  
19 of these small businesses by lowering the cost of professional  
20 development for child care providers. Further, the legislature  
21 intends to allow providers to identify their own opportunities for

1 cost-effective ways to self-certify their completion of certain  
2 professional development activities that satisfy education  
3 requirements for child care licensure.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.216.110 and 2012 c 149 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 ~~((By December 31, 2012,))~~ The department shall adopt core  
7 competencies for early care and education professionals and ~~((child  
8 and youth development professionals and develop an implementation  
9 plan. The department shall))~~ incorporate the core competencies into  
10 ~~((all appropriate professional development opportunities including,  
11 but not limited to,))~~ the quality rating and improvement system~~((  
12 the early childhood education and assistance program, child care  
13 licensing, and the early support for infants and toddlers program))~~.  
14 The purpose of the core competencies is to serve as a foundation for  
15 what early care and education professionals ~~((and child and youth  
16 development professionals))~~ who are participants in the quality  
17 rating and improvement system need to know and do to provide quality  
18 care for children. The core competencies must be reviewed and updated  
19 every five years. The department may not apply the core competencies  
20 to minimum licensing standards.

21 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.216.255 and 2015 3rd sp.s. c 7 s 3 are each  
22 amended to read as follows:

23 (1) ~~((No later than November 1, 2016,))~~ The department shall  
24 implement a single set of licensing standards for child care and the  
25 early childhood education and assistance program. The department  
26 shall produce the single set of licensing standards within the  
27 department's available appropriations. The ~~((new))~~ licensing  
28 standards must:

29 (a) Provide minimum health and safety standards that are  
30 primarily based on structural and environmental factors for child  
31 care and preschool programs;

32 (b) ~~((Rely on the standards established in the early achievers  
33 program to address quality issues in participating early childhood  
34 programs;~~

35 ~~((e))~~) Take into account the separate needs of family care  
36 providers and child care centers; and

37 ~~((d))~~ (c) Promote the continued safety of child care settings.

1 (2) Private schools that operate early learning programs and do  
2 not receive state subsidy payments shall be subject only to the  
3 minimum health and safety standards in subsection (1)(a) of this  
4 section and the requirements necessary to assure a sufficient early  
5 childhood education to meet usual requirements needed for transition  
6 into elementary school. The state, and any agency thereof, shall not  
7 restrict or dictate any specific educational or other programs for  
8 early learning programs operated by private schools except for  
9 programs that receive state subsidy payments.

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

12 The department shall require regional licensing staff to award  
13 clock hours to early learning providers pursuant to this section. The  
14 department shall allow early learning providers to use clock hours to  
15 satisfy education requirements for professional licensure. The  
16 department's regional licensing staff must award clock hours when a  
17 provider self-certifies that the experience provides beneficial  
18 skills and knowledge in an area directly related to providing care  
19 that supports the safety and developmental needs of children. At a  
20 minimum, activities that qualify for clock hours must include:

- 21 (1) Participation in community-based trainings;  
22 (2) Earned credit from an accredited institution of higher  
23 education;  
24 (3) Time related to providing care for children in a licensed  
25 child care center or licensed family home. These activities may  
26 include volunteering, apprenticeship, and peer mentoring; and  
27 (4) Certification by a national organization with a mission  
28 related to providing early learning or child care.

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