(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Establishes the Washington CARES act.

Requires the office of financial management to: (1) Consult with the child care collaborative task force to modify its model policy for a bring your infant to work program as appropriate for implementation at state agencies; and

(2) Provide the modified model policy and implementation guidelines to state agency directors by February 1, 2020.

Permits a state employee to help a fellow state employee with leave, under the shared leave program, if his or her child is too ill to attend child care.

Permits an agency head to allow an employee to also receive leave under the shared leave program if the employee has a child under the age of thirteen who is too ill to attend child care.

Creates the child care shared leave pool to allow employees to donate leave to be used as shared leave for employees who meet certain requirements.

Requires the state health care authority to establish a pilot project under which a state agency will provide matching contributions to its employees' dependent care assistance program accounts.

Requires the department of commerce, in partnership with the office of financial management, the department of enterprise services, the department of children, youth, and families, and the state health care authority, to develop a survey for state employees in order to better understand issues affecting child care access and affordability for their families.

Provides that section 5 of this act is null and void if appropriations are not approved.