

**E2SSB 5237** - H AMD TO CYF COMM AMD (H-1378.1/21) **634**

By Representative Dent

**NOT ADOPTED 04/08/2021**

1 On page 29, after line 20 of the striking amendment, insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 315.** REGULATORY RELIEF TASK FORCE. (1) The  
4 department of children, youth, and families shall convene a task  
5 force with child care providers and their representatives,  
6 facilitated by a neutral third party, to develop recommendations for  
7 providing regulatory relief and making the licensing process more  
8 affordable for child care providers. At a minimum, the task force  
9 must evaluate:

10 (a) Reviewing the child care licensing fee structure;

11 (b) Suspending, delaying, or waiving certain licensing  
12 requirements for at least one year;

13 (c) Reevaluating staff-to-child required ratios and the minimum  
14 indoor space requirements for licensing; and

15 (d) Removing, revising, or waiving licensing requirements  
16 related to the early achievers program.

17 (2) The task force must report recommendations agreed upon by  
18 the majority of task force members to the governor and the  
19 appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the legislature by  
20 December 1, 2021 and in accordance with RCW 43.01.036. The report  
21 must include the policy rationale, implementation plan, timeline,  
22 and recommended statutory changes required to implement the  
23 recommendations. The report must also include a minority report for  
24 recommendations provided by members that were not agreed upon.

25 (3) Task force participants must represent geographically  
26 diverse areas of the state and there must be a process to allow  
27 providers not able to participate to send feedback to the

1 facilitator for consideration. Task force membership must include at  
2 least one representative from each of the following:

- 3 (a) The department of children, youth, and families;
- 4 (b) Licensed family home providers;
- 5 (c) Family, friend, and neighbor caregivers;
- 6 (d) Child care centers;
- 7 (e) The statewide child care resource and referral network; and
- 8 (f) A statewide association for representing the interests of  
9 child care centers.

10 (4) Members of the task force shall be reimbursed for travel  
11 expenses in accordance with chapter 43.03 RCW. Child care providers  
12 serving as members of the task force must be reimbursed for the cost  
13 of hiring a substitute for times the provider is away from the child  
14 care business for official task for travel and meetings.

15 (5) Staff support for the task force must be provided by the  
16 department of children, youth, and families.

17 (6) This section expires January 1, 2022.

18

19 **Sec. 316.** RCW 43.216.655 and 2019 c 369 s 7 are each amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 (1) The education data center established in RCW 43.41.400 must  
22 collect longitudinal, student-level data on all children attending  
23 an early childhood education and assistance program. Upon completion  
24 of an electronic time and attendance record system, the education  
25 data center must collect longitudinal, student-level data on all  
26 children attending a working connections child care program. Data  
27 collected should capture at a minimum the following characteristics:

- 28 (a) Daily program attendance;
- 29 (b) Identification of classroom and teacher;
- 30 (c) Early achievers program quality level rating;
- 31 (d) Program hours;
- 32 (e) Program duration;
- 33 (f) Developmental results from the Washington kindergarten  
34 inventory of developing skills in RCW 28A.655.080; and

1 (g) To the extent data is available, the distinct ethnic  
2 categories within racial subgroups of children and providers that  
3 align with categories recognized by the education data center.

4 (2) The department shall provide early learning providers  
5 student-level data collected pursuant to this section that are  
6 specific to the early learning provider's program. Upon completion  
7 of an electronic time and attendance record system identified in  
8 subsection (1) of this section, the department shall provide child  
9 care providers student-level data that are specific to the child  
10 care provider's program.

11 (3) The department shall review available research and best  
12 practices literature on cultural competency in early learning  
13 settings. The department shall review the K-12 components for  
14 cultural competency developed by the professional educator standards  
15 board and identify components appropriate for early learning  
16 professional development.

17 (4)(a) The Washington state institute for public policy shall  
18 conduct a longitudinal analysis examining relationships between the  
19 early achievers program quality ratings levels and outcomes for  
20 children participating in subsidized early care and education  
21 programs.

22 (b) The institute shall submit the first report to the  
23 appropriate committees of the legislature and the early learning  
24 advisory council by December 31, 2019. The institute shall submit  
25 subsequent reports annually to the appropriate committees of the  
26 legislature and the early learning advisory council by December  
27 31st, with the final report due December 31, 2022. The final report  
28 shall include a cost-benefit analysis.

29 (5) By December 31, 2021, and subject to the availability of  
30 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the Washington state  
31 institute for public policy shall update the outcome evaluation of  
32 the early childhood education and assistance program required by  
33 chapter 16, Laws of 2013 and report to the governor and the  
34 legislature on the outcomes of program participants. The evaluation

1 must include the demographics of program participants including  
2 race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. The evaluation must  
3 examine short and long-term impacts on program participants,  
4 including high school graduation rates for up to two cohorts. When  
5 conducting the evaluation, the institute must consider, to the  
6 extent that data is available, the education levels and  
7 demographics, including race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status,  
8 of early childhood education and assistance program staff and the  
9 effects of full-day programming and half-day programming on outcomes.

10 (6)(a) The Washington state institute for public policy shall  
11 conduct a study comparing child care licensing regulations  
12 nationwide. In conducting the study, the institute shall review and  
13 compare the structure of child care licensing regulations and  
14 outcomes in other states, including, but not limited to:

15 (i) Child care costs;  
16 (ii) Availability of child care;  
17 (iii) Regulations on child care providers; and  
18 (iv) Safety and health outcomes for children in child care  
19 settings, to the extent possible.

20 (b) The institute shall submit a report on its findings to the  
21 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 31, 2021.

22 (c) Subsection (6) of this section will expire June 30, 2022."

EFFECT: (1) Requires the department of children, youth, and families to convene a task force with child care providers and certain representatives, facilitated by a neutral third party, to develop recommendations for providing regulatory relief and making the licensing process more affordable for child care providers.

(2) Requires the task force to report recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1, 2021.

(3) Requires the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to conduct a nationwide study comparing child care licensing regulations and submit a report on its findings to the Legislature by December 31, 2021.

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