

2SSB 5237 - S AMD 343

By Senator Van De Wege

ADOPTED 03/06/2021

1 Beginning on page 4, line 25, after "purposes" strike all
2 material through "RCW 41.56.028" on page 6, line 12

3 On page 6, after line 12, insert the following:

4 **"NEW SECTION. Sec. 102.** FAIR START FOR KIDS SPENDING GOALS AND
5 STRATEGIES. The spending goals and strategies for the fair start for
6 kids account created under section 101 of this act include, but are
7 not limited to:

8 (1) Increasing child care subsidy rates, with the goal of moving
9 toward the full cost of providing high quality child care;

10 (2) Expanding health care coverage through state sponsorship of
11 child care workers on the Washington health benefit exchange and
12 providing consumer assistance through navigators, as well as any
13 other expansions of access to affordable health care for staff in
14 child care centers, family home providers, outdoor nature-based care,
15 and early childhood education and assistance program staff;

16 (3) Increasing child care and early learning providers'
17 compensation;

18 (4) Implementing the provisions of collective bargaining
19 agreements for family child care providers negotiated pursuant to RCW
20 41.56.028;

21 (5) Supporting and expanding access to the early childhood
22 education and assistance program to reach state-funded entitlement
23 required in RCW 43.216.556;

24 (6) Making child care affordable for families;

25 (7) Providing resources and supports for family, friend, and
26 neighbor caregivers that better reflect the full cost of care;

27 (8) Providing professional development opportunities for child
28 care and early learning providers;

29 (9) Delivering infant and early childhood mental health
30 consultation services;

31 (10) Establishing prekindergarten through third grade systems
32 coordinators at educational service districts;

1 (11) Supporting youth development programs serving children and
2 youth ages birth through 12 including, but not limited to, expanded
3 learning opportunities, mentoring, school-age child care, and
4 wraparound supports or integrated student supports;

5 (12) Awarding grants and loans through the early learning
6 facilities grant and loan program established under chapter 43.31
7 RCW;

8 (13) Paying enhanced rates for special rate designations in the
9 working connections child care programs, early childhood education
10 and assistance programs, and birth to three early childhood education
11 and assistance programs including designations established in
12 sections 302, 304, 305, and 404 of this act;

13 (14) Supporting costs for transparent data collection and
14 information technology systems operated by the department and
15 department contractors, in particular, to ensure equitable systemic
16 service provision and outcomes;

17 (15) Providing access to learning technology;

18 (16) Providing child care resource and referral services;

19 (17) Conducting quality rating and improvement system activities
20 through the early achievers program;

21 (18) Expanding prenatal to three services and supports, including
22 the birth to three early childhood education and assistance program
23 and the in-home parent skill-based programs established in RCW
24 43.216.130;

25 (19) Building and delivering a family resource and referral
26 linkage system;

27 (20) Administering comprehensive shared services hubs to allow
28 the ongoing pooling and shared use of services by licensed or
29 certified child care centers and family home providers;

30 (21) Training department staff to ensure consistent and equitable
31 application of child care licensing and quality standards across the
32 state including antibias and antiracist training;

33 (22) Providing incentives for child care providers to become
34 licensed; and

35 (23) Recognizing the benefits of the diverse workforce and
36 facilitating communication in the three most commonly spoken
37 languages by developing a language access plan that centers on equity
38 and access for immigrants, multilingual providers, caregivers, and
39 families."

1 Renumber the remaining sections consecutively and correct any
2 internal references accordingly.

3 On page 6, line 28, after "section" strike "101" and insert "102"

4 On page 12, line 1, after "(11)" insert "The council shall
5 convene a temporary licensing subcommittee to provide feedback and
6 recommendations on improvement to the statewide licensing process.
7 The subcommittee shall examine strategies to increase the number of
8 licensed child care providers in the state. The subcommittee shall
9 develop model policies for licensed child care providers to implement
10 licensing standards including, but not limited to, completing the
11 child care and early learning licensing guidebook, to be made
12 available to support providers with compliance. The subcommittee
13 shall also develop recommendations regarding incentives and financial
14 supports to help prospective providers navigate the licensing
15 process. The subcommittee shall provide feedback and recommendations
16 pursuant to this subsection (11) by December 1, 2022.

17 (12)"

18 Renumber the remaining subsection consecutively and correct any
19 internal references accordingly.

20 On page 27, after line 7, insert the following:

21 "NEW SECTION. Sec. 313. NEGOTIATED RULE MAKING WITH CHILD CARE
22 CENTERS. The secretary shall engage in negotiated rule making
23 pursuant to RCW 34.05.310(2)(a) with the largest organization
24 representing child care center owners and directors; the largest
25 organization representing supervisors, teachers, and aides; and other
26 affected interests before adopting requirements that affect child
27 care center licensees."

28 On page 35, line 30, after "((twelve))" strike "13" and insert
29 "12"

30 On page 51, line 31, after "101" strike ", 103" and insert
31 "through 103"

32 On page 51, line 32, after "311" strike ", 312" and insert
33 "through 313"

EFFECT: (1) Moves the nonexhaustive list of allowable uses for the Fair Start for Kids Account to a new spending goals and strategies section.

(2) Adds supporting youth development programs serving children and youth ages birth through 12 to the spending goals and strategies section.

(3) Directs the Early Learning Advisory Council to convene a temporary licensing subcommittee to provide feedback and recommendations by December 1, 2022, on: (a) Improvement to the statewide licensing process; (b) strategies to increase the number of licensed child care providers; (c) model policies for licensed child care providers, including a licensing guidebook; and (d) incentives and financial supports to help prospective providers navigate the licensing process.

(4) Requires the Secretary of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to engage in negotiated rule making with the largest organization representing child care center owners and directors; the largest organization representing supervisors, teachers, and aides; and with other affected interests before adopting requirements that affect child care center licensees.

(5) Restores the existing definition of "school age child," which includes 12-year-olds.

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