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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1451**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** House Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning (originally sponsored by Representatives Senn, Harris, Fitzgibbon, Santos, Berry, Callan, Ortiz-Self, Chapman, Springer, Schmidt, Bergquist, Ryu, Abbarno, Reeves, Reed, Doglio, Fosse, Eslick, Pollet, Davis, Macri, Goodman, Leavitt, Cortes, and Simmons)

READ FIRST TIME 02/09/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding the child care workforce; adding a  
2 new section to chapter 28A.630 RCW; adding new sections to chapter  
3 43.216 RCW; creating a new section; and providing expiration dates.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Like other states around the country,  
6 there is a child care workforce crisis in Washington state. High  
7 school students who already provide child care for young siblings and  
8 neighbors should be able to turn that experience into a rewarding  
9 career in an in-demand field. As we expand access to high quality  
10 child care in Washington, the opportunities in the child care  
11 industry will continue to increase. Therefore, the legislature  
12 intends to grow and support the pipeline of child care workers and  
13 nurture the development of new child care providers.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
17 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public  
18 instruction shall establish a child care worker pilot program as  
19 described in this section. The purpose of the program is to support  
20 and promote opportunities for students to earn credit and experience

1 by participating in courses and hands-on work practices in early  
2 childhood development and child care services.

3 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
4 select one or two public high schools that offer established courses  
5 in the early childhood development and services career pathway for  
6 the purpose of consulting with the applicable schools and districts  
7 and developing model materials that may be employed by other school  
8 districts with an interest in establishing or expanding similar  
9 instructional offerings to students. The model materials must be  
10 developed by January 1, 2024.

11 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
12 establish a child care worker pilot program in up to four school  
13 districts that choose to participate during the 2024-25 and 2025-26  
14 school years. Participating school districts must agree to employ a  
15 program that aligns with the model materials created under subsection  
16 (2) of this section. Preference shall be given to school districts  
17 that have or are pursuing career launch programs under chapter 28C.30  
18 RCW.

19 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall:

20 (a) Administer a grant program to provide grants to eligible  
21 school districts that participate in the child care worker pilot  
22 program;

23 (b) Establish requirements for the application and grant award  
24 process, the number of awards, and the authorized use of grant funds;  
25 and

26 (c) Begin distributing funds by September 1, 2024, with the  
27 distribution of funds completed by September 1, 2025.

28 (5) To be eligible to participate in the child care worker pilot  
29 program and receive grant funding, a school district must, at a  
30 minimum:

31 (a) Describe how the funds would be used to employ a program that  
32 aligns with the model materials created under subsection (2) of this  
33 section;

34 (b) Demonstrate community support for the program, including  
35 describing the actual or perceived need and efforts to coordinate  
36 instructional offerings with community colleges, child care  
37 providers, and organizations that support access to high quality  
38 child care and early learning programs; and

39 (c) Agree to coordinate and collaborate with other school  
40 districts participating in the child care worker pilot program.

1 (6) School districts participating in the child care worker pilot  
2 program established in this section must:

3 (a) Coordinate background checks for participating students;

4 (b) Provide a stipend or hourly wage to the students which may be  
5 paid through the pilot program grant funds or other sources;

6 (c) Support efforts of qualifying students to earn dual credit,  
7 work credit, or both;

8 (d) Facilitate additional training relevant to early childhood  
9 education certification and a continuing professional pathway if  
10 desired by the student, including connecting students with local  
11 community colleges offering coursework in early learning that meets  
12 early achievers requirements under chapter 43.216 RCW; and

13 (e) Partner with an early learning organization and provide  
14 funding to that organization to:

15 (i) Identify sites and match students with programs that will  
16 work in partnership with the school district;

17 (ii) Support the participating child care providers and students  
18 throughout the duration of the program;

19 (iii) Provide incentives to child care educators in recognition  
20 of the on-site instruction and mentorship provided to students and  
21 the administrative work related to participation in the program.  
22 Pilot program grant funds may be used for this purpose;

23 (iv) Provide feedback about the areas of the curriculum that need  
24 to be expanded and strengthened to support students' success in the  
25 program; and

26 (v) Provide information as requested by the school district in  
27 order for the school district to comply with the requirement in  
28 subsection (7) of this section.

29 (7) School districts participating in the child care worker pilot  
30 program must submit information to the office of the superintendent  
31 of public instruction by September 1, 2025, and September 1, 2026,  
32 detailing the use of grant funds.

33 (8) By November 10, 2026, and in accordance with RCW 43.01.036,  
34 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall report  
35 to the appropriate committees of the legislature with findings from  
36 and recommendations regarding the child care worker pilot program and  
37 its effectiveness in supporting the capacity for service delivery of  
38 participating child care programs. The report must include  
39 information as to: Whether the program is meeting the early learning  
40 community's needs and if it should be extended, expanded, or both; a

1 compilation of the use of grant funds as reported under subsection  
2 (7) of this section; and options for further supporting and promoting  
3 opportunities for students to earn credit and relevant experience.

4 (9) This section expires July 1, 2027.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) By December 1, 2023, the department must contract with an  
8 early learning organization to develop a model program manual for a  
9 program to assist middle and high school-aged youth who routinely  
10 care for younger relatives, such as siblings, cousins, nieces and  
11 nephews, and other young children while those children's parents are  
12 away at work or school. The purpose of this program is to support and  
13 promote opportunities for youth who care for young children to gain  
14 skills that help improve their care delivery and prepare them for  
15 future careers in the child care and early learning field.

16 (2) The program manual must contain guidance regarding the  
17 following:

18 (a) Providing key curriculum covering topics such as child  
19 development, nutrition, and home safety;

20 (b) Incorporating elements of experiential learning and peer  
21 learning and support;

22 (c) Proficiency with cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid;  
23 and

24 (d) The benefits of partnering with community-based organizations  
25 to provide program content and reach youth most in need of the  
26 program.

27 (3) The program manual must be completed by July 1, 2024.

28 (4) The department must provide training and technical assistance  
29 to community-based programs wishing to implement the program.

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

32 (1) The department must develop detailed recommendations  
33 regarding ways to utilize funds, in line with the spending goals and  
34 strategies under RCW 43.216.772(1)(i), to continue to expand the  
35 substitute pool for child care and early learning providers and  
36 provide additional career coaching to substitute providers. In its  
37 recommendations, the department must include options for offering  
38 grants, scholarships, or other financial assistance to assist

1 substitute providers in obtaining certificates or higher education  
2 degrees in early childhood education that will enable them to secure  
3 permanent employment in the child care and early learning field.

4 (2) The department must provide a report with relevant data to  
5 the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2023, in  
6 accordance with RCW 43.01.036, detailing the recommendations  
7 developed under subsection (1) of this section and including an  
8 update as to any milestones achieved as of the reporting date and  
9 projections for achievement of future goals.

10 (3) This section expires July 1, 2025.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216  
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) Subject to amounts appropriated for this specific purpose,  
14 the department must, by September 1, 2023, contract with an  
15 organization that provides relationship-based professional  
16 development support to family, friend, and neighbor, child care  
17 center, and licensed family care providers, to expand the child care  
18 workforce and establish new affordable high quality child care and  
19 early learning programs.

20 (2) At a minimum, to be eligible to be awarded a contract, an  
21 organization must:

22 (a) Provide professional development services for child care  
23 providers and early childhood educators, including training and  
24 mentorship programs;

25 (b) Provide mentorship and other services to assist with child  
26 care provider and facility licensing;

27 (c) Administer or host a system of shared services and consulting  
28 related to operating a child care business; and

29 (d) Administer a state-sponsored substitute pool of substitute  
30 child care providers.

31 (3) The department must compile and make available by December 1,  
32 2024, information regarding the outcome of the contract, including  
33 the number of new child care businesses and additional child care  
34 slots created, the substitute hours provided, and the number of  
35 substitute child care providers who have entered into full-time  
36 employment in the child care industry. The contracted organization  
37 must provide information to the department that is needed to fulfill  
38 this requirement.

1 (4) This section expires July 1, 2026.

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