

2SHB 1525 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 **"Sec. 1.** RCW 43.216.136 and 2021 c 199 s 202 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The department shall establish and implement policies in the  
6 working connections child care program to promote stability and  
7 quality of care for children from low-income households. These  
8 policies shall focus on supporting school readiness for young  
9 learners. Policies for the expenditure of funds constituting the  
10 working connections child care program must be consistent with the  
11 outcome measures established by the department and the standards  
12 established in this section intended to promote stability, quality,  
13 and continuity of early care and education programming.

14 (2) As recommended by P.L. 113-186, authorizations for the  
15 working connections child care subsidy are effective for twelve  
16 months beginning July 1, 2016.

17 (a) A household's 12-month authorization begins on the date that  
18 child care is expected to begin.

19 (b) If a newly eligible household does not begin care within 12  
20 months of being determined eligible by the department, the household  
21 must reapply in order to qualify for subsidy.

22 (3)(a) The department shall establish and implement policies in  
23 the working connections child care program to allow eligibility for  
24 families with children who:

25 (i) In the last six months have:

26 (A) Received child protective services as defined and used by  
27 chapters 26.44 and 74.13 RCW;

28 (B) Received child welfare services as defined and used by  
29 chapter 74.13 RCW; or

30 (C) Received services through a family assessment response as  
31 defined and used by chapter 26.44 RCW;

1 (ii) Have been referred for child care as part of the family's  
2 case management as defined by RCW 74.13.020; and

3 (iii) Are residing with a biological parent or guardian.

4 (b) Families who are eligible for working connections child care  
5 pursuant to this subsection do not have to keep receiving services  
6 identified in this subsection to maintain twelve-month authorization.

7 (4) (a) Beginning July 1, 2021, and subject to the availability of  
8 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the department may  
9 not require an applicant or consumer to meet work requirements as a  
10 condition of receiving working connections child care benefits when  
11 the applicant or consumer is a full-time student of a community,  
12 technical, or tribal college and is enrolled in:

13 (i) A vocational education program that leads to a degree or  
14 certificate in a specific occupation;

15 (ii) An associate degree program; or

16 (iii) A state registered apprenticeship program.

17 (b) An applicant or consumer is a full-time student for the  
18 purposes of this subsection if (~~he or she~~) the applicant or  
19 consumer meets the college's definition of a full-time student.

20 (c) Nothing in this subsection is intended to change how  
21 applicants or consumers are prioritized when applicants or consumers  
22 are placed on a waitlist for working connections child care benefits.

23 (d) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
24 specific purpose, the department may extend the provisions of this  
25 subsection (4) to full-time students who are enrolled in a bachelor's  
26 degree program or applied baccalaureate degree program.

27 (5) (a) An applicant or consumer is eligible to receive working  
28 connections child care benefits for the care of one or more eligible  
29 children for the first 12 months of the applicant's or consumer's  
30 enrollment in a state registered apprenticeship program under chapter  
31 49.04 RCW, regardless of whether or not the applicant or consumer  
32 otherwise meets eligibility requirements, when the applicant or  
33 consumer has a household income that:

34 (i) Before July 1, 2025, does not exceed 75 percent of the state  
35 median income at the time of application; and

36 (ii) Beginning July 1, 2025, does not exceed 85 percent of the  
37 state median income at the time of application.

38 (b) The department must adopt a copayment model for benefits  
39 granted under this subsection to consumers with household incomes  
40 above 60 percent and at or below 85 percent of the state median

1 income at the time of application, which must align with any  
2 copayment identified or adopted under RCW 43.216.1368.

3 (6)(a) The department must extend the homeless grace period, as  
4 adopted in department rule as of January 1, 2020, from a four-month  
5 grace period to a twelve-month grace period.

6 (b) For the purposes of this section, "homeless" means being  
7 without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence as  
8 described in the federal McKinney-Vento homeless assistance act (42  
9 U.S.C. Sec. 11434a) as it existed on January 1, 2020.

10 ~~((6))~~ (7) For purposes of this section, "authorization" means a  
11 transaction created by the department that allows a child care  
12 provider to claim payment for care. The department may adjust an  
13 authorization based on a household's eligibility status.

14 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. If specific funding for the purposes of  
15 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not  
16 provided by June 30, 2023, in the omnibus appropriations act, this  
17 act is null and void."

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18 On page 1, line 3 of the title, after "apprenticeships;" strike  
19 the remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 43.216.136; and  
20 creating a new section."

EFFECT: Removes the date of July 1, 2023, for when the first-  
phase of the policy begins, so that the policy takes effect 90 days  
after adjournment of session.

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