
HOUSE BILL 1141

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representative Reeves

Read first time 01/15/19. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Early Learning.

1 AN ACT Relating to child care supports for military families; and
2 adding a new section to chapter 43.216 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
7 specific purpose, a service member who is enlisted in any branch of
8 the armed forces of the United States is eligible to receive working
9 connections child care. When determining service member eligibility
10 and copayment for a service member under this section, the
11 department:

12 (a) Must authorize care in cases where the household income of
13 the service member does not exceed eighty-five percent of the state
14 median income at the time of application and the service member meets
15 all other program eligibility requirements;

16 (b) Must consider the length of the service member's military
17 service and, in the event of a waitlist, prioritize longer-serving
18 service members when authorizing care; and

19 (c) May not require a copayment greater than sixty-five dollars
20 per month.

1 (2) The number of households determined eligible under this
2 section is not considered part of the average monthly caseload limit
3 for program enrollment, if such a limit is identified in the omnibus
4 operating appropriations act.

5 (3) Funds authorized under this section may not supplant federal
6 child care subsidy funds available to the service member through the
7 department of defense child care assistance fee program authorized by
8 P.L. 115-232 as it existed on January 1, 2019, or substantively
9 similar successor program. Funds appropriated in the omnibus
10 operating appropriations act for this specific purpose may be used to
11 pay the difference, with the exception of any required copayment by
12 the service member, between the federal subsidy and the cost of care
13 if the federal funds available through the department of defense
14 child care assistance fee program are not sufficient to cover the
15 entire cost of care.

16 (4) For the purposes of this section, "service member" means an
17 enlisted member of any branch of the armed forces of the United
18 States who is not a commissioned officer.

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