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SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5098

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Billig, Litzow, Jayapal, and McAuliffe)

1            AN ACT Relating to increased efficiency in child care reporting;  
2 amending RCW 43.215.135 and 43.215.1352; and creating a new section.

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

4            NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 1.**        The legislature recognizes that the  
5 federal government encourages states to ensure that a child who is  
6 eligible for subsidized child care remains in child care regardless  
7 of temporary changes to the child's family. The legislature intends  
8 to meet this federal goal, which will increase administrative  
9 efficiency and provide stable child care, by streamlining a family's  
10 reporting requirements regarding changes to a family's circumstances.

11            **Sec. 2.**        RCW 43.215.135 and 2013 c 323 s 9 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13            (1) The department shall establish and implement policies in the  
14 working connections child care program to promote stability and  
15 quality of care for children from low-income households. Policies for  
16 the expenditure of funds constituting the working connections child  
17 care program must be consistent with the outcome measures defined in  
18 RCW 74.08A.410 and the standards established in this section intended  
19 to promote continuity of care for children.

1           (2) (~~Beginning in fiscal year 2013~~) As recommended by Public  
2 Law 113-186, authorizations for the working connections child care  
3 subsidy shall be effective for twelve months unless a change in  
4 circumstances necessitates reauthorization sooner than twelve months.  
5 The twelve-month certification applies only if the enrollments in the  
6 child care subsidy or working connections child care program are  
7 capped. No later than November 1, 2016, the department shall  
8 establish and implement a policy that provides working connections  
9 child care authorizations for up to three thirty-day periods when a  
10 recipient experiences a gap in his or her employment or approved  
11 activity.

12           (3) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
13 specific purpose, beginning September 1, 2013, working connections  
14 child care providers shall receive a five percent increase in the  
15 subsidy rate for enrolling in level 2 in the early achievers  
16 programs. Providers must complete level 2 and advance to level 3  
17 within thirty months in order to maintain this increase.

18           **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.215.1352 and 2012 c 251 s 2 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20           When an applicant or recipient applies for or receives working  
21 connections child care benefits, (~~he or she~~) the applicant or  
22 recipient is required to(~~+~~

23 ~~(1))~~ notify the department of social and health services, within  
24 five days, of any change in providers(~~+~~and

25 ~~(2) Notify the department of social and health services, within~~  
26 ~~ten days, about any significant change related to the number of child~~  
27 ~~care hours the applicant or recipient needs, cost sharing, or~~  
28 ~~eligibility)).~~

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