
SENATE BILL 5535

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senator Braun

Read first time 01/23/19. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to analyzing child care costs and affordability;
2 creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of children, youth, and
5 families shall convene and facilitate a child care affordability and
6 accessibility work group to examine regulatory and licensing costs
7 and the associated effects on child care affordability and
8 accessibility for multiple and single-parent families. The director
9 of the department of children, youth, and families, or his or her
10 designee, must convene the first meeting of the work group by August
11 1, 2019.

12 (2) The work group must provide recommendations to the governor
13 and the relevant legislative committees regarding:

14 (a) How to decrease child care costs and increase availability in
15 each region through removal and amendment of relevant administrative
16 rules and licensing barriers that increase operational costs for
17 providers;

18 (b) How to increase availability of care in family, friend, and
19 neighbor settings;

20 (c) Mitigating or offsetting the impacts of minimum wage
21 increases;

1 (d) Licensing and educational requirements; and
2 (e) The economic impact of early achievers program rules and
3 requirements, including costs and benefits for providers, subsidy
4 recipients, and private pay consumers.

5 (3) To accomplish its duties, the work group shall evaluate
6 current available data including, but not limited to:

7 (a) Child care market rate survey reports, including data related
8 to the geographic distribution of licensed child care providers and
9 the demand for, cost of care, and availability of such providers both
10 in terms of actual slots and the total number of each type of
11 provider;

12 (b) Reports related to the costs and benefits of care in terms of
13 provider compliance with the early achievers program regulatory and
14 licensing provisions and requirements;

15 (c) Research related to "fade out" of academic benefits in early
16 learning and child care, kindergarten readiness, and other academic
17 outcome metrics; and

18 (d) Regional subsidy rate analysis and surveys.

19 (4)(a) The work group shall consist of five voting members, with
20 two senators and two representatives from the legislature from each
21 major caucus and the executive director of the oversight board for
22 children, youth, and families serving as the fifth voting member.

23 (b) The senate members of the work group must be appointed by the
24 leaders of the two major caucuses of the senate. The house of
25 representatives members of the work group must be appointed by the
26 leaders of the two major caucuses of the house of representatives.
27 Members must be appointed before the close of each regular session of
28 the legislature during an odd-numbered year.

29 (c) The voting members of the work group shall select a work
30 group chairperson. The work group chairperson must be selected by a
31 majority vote of the voting work group members.

32 (5) The voting members of the work group shall appoint additional
33 nonvoting work group members as follows:

34 (a) One licensed child care center provider;

35 (b) One parent representative with a child receiving care in a
36 licensed child care center;

37 (c) One licensed family child care provider;

38 (d) One parent representative with a child receiving care in a
39 family child care provider setting;

1 (e) One licensed family, friend, and neighbor child care
2 provider;

3 (f) One parent representative with a child receiving care in a
4 family, friend, and neighbor child care setting;

5 (g) One unlicensed family, friend, and neighbor child care
6 provider; and

7 (h) One representative from Washington child care aware.

8 (6) (a) The executive director of the oversight board for
9 children, youth, and families, or his or her designee, may invite
10 additional representatives to participate as nonvoting members of the
11 work group.

12 (b) Additional nonvoting members invited by the executive
13 director of the oversight board for children, youth, and families
14 must be approved by a majority of voting work group members.

15 (7) Staff support for the work group must be provided by the
16 senate committee services and the house of representatives office of
17 program research.

18 (8) Legislative members of the work group must be reimbursed for
19 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
20 members must be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with
21 chapter 43.03 RCW.

22 (9) By June 1, 2020, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the
23 work group shall report its findings and recommendations to the
24 governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature. The
25 report must include the recommendations from subsection (2) of this
26 section and findings related to:

27 (a) Options for exemptions from the early achievers program rules
28 that would reduce provider operational costs without reducing child
29 care safety and quality;

30 (b) Opportunities for streamlining permitting and licensing
31 requirements to facilitate reduction in provider operating costs;

32 (c) Opportunities for administrative rule changes that would
33 reduce provider costs without reducing child care safety or quality;

34 (d) How increased provider subsidy rates would impact
35 affordability and accessibility of child care in each region;

36 (e) The economic impacts, including costs and benefits, of the
37 early achievers program requirements and rules on providers with
38 regard to health, safety, and education outcomes for children;

39 (f) A comparative analysis of outcome measurement tools used in
40 other states to ascertain quality of care;

- 1 (g) Increasing child care affordability for nonsubsidized
2 consumers; and
3 (h) Increasing child care availability.
4 (10) This section expires December 30, 2020.

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