
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1611

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By House Early Learning & Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Short, Orwall, McCune, Walsh, and Rolfes)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/11.

1 AN ACT Relating to clarifying the department of early learning's
2 authority with respect to licensed child care facilities; and amending
3 RCW 43.215.545.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.215.545 and 2006 c 265 s 204 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 The department of early learning shall:

8 (1) Work in conjunction with the statewide child care resource and
9 referral network as well as local governments, nonprofit organizations,
10 businesses, and community child care advocates to create local child
11 care resource and referral organizations. These organizations may
12 carry out needs assessments, resource development, provider training,
13 technical assistance, and parent information and training;

14 (2) Actively seek public and private money for distribution as
15 grants to the statewide child care resource and referral network and to
16 existing or potential local child care resource and referral
17 organizations;

18 (3) Adopt rules regarding the application for and distribution of

1 grants to local child care resource and referral organizations. The
2 rules shall, at a minimum, require an applicant to submit a plan for
3 achieving the following objectives:

4 (a) Provide parents with information about child care resources,
5 including location of services and subsidies;

6 (b) Carry out child care provider recruitment and training
7 programs, including training under RCW 74.25.040;

8 (c) Offer support services, such as parent and provider seminars,
9 toy-lending libraries, and substitute banks;

10 (d) Provide information for businesses regarding child care supply
11 and demand;

12 (e) Advocate for increased public and private sector resources
13 devoted to child care;

14 (f) Provide technical assistance to employers regarding employee
15 child care services; and

16 (g) Serve recipients of temporary assistance for needy families and
17 working parents with incomes at or below household incomes of one
18 hundred seventy-five percent of the federal poverty line;

19 (4) Provide staff support and technical assistance to the statewide
20 child care resource and referral network and local child care resource
21 and referral organizations;

22 (5) Maintain a statewide child care licensing data bank and work
23 with department licensors to provide information to local child care
24 resource and referral organizations about licensed child care providers
25 in the state;

26 (6) Through the statewide child care resource and referral network
27 and local resource and referral organizations, compile data about local
28 child care needs and availability for future planning and development;

29 (7) Coordinate with the statewide child care resource and referral
30 network and local child care resource and referral organizations for
31 the provision of training and technical assistance to child care
32 providers. Such training and technical assistance must include a
33 quality improvement consultation program which supports child care
34 centers in their efforts to improve quality and address problems as
35 identified by the child care provider;

36 (a) The quality improvement consultation program must be a separate
37 process from the facility licensing and compliance agreement process
38 and must be offered to child care centers on a voluntary basis;

1 (b) As part of the quality improvement consultation program, the
2 department may, within available funding, and at the request of the
3 child care center, conduct on-site visits and telephone consultations;

4 (c) Any records or information gained as a result of a child care
5 center's work under the quality improvement consultation program may
6 not be disclosed to or shared with nonmanagerial department licensing
7 or complaint investigation staff, unless necessary to carry out duties
8 described under chapter 26.44 RCW. The emphasis should be on problem
9 prevention. Nothing in this subsection limits or interferes with the
10 consultant's mandated reporting duties under chapter 26.44 RCW; and

11 (8) Collect and assemble information regarding the availability of
12 insurance and of federal and other child care funding to assist state
13 and local agencies, businesses, and other child care providers in
14 offering child care services.

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