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SENATE BILL 6279

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senators Hill and Darneille; by request of Office of Financial Management

Read first time 01/14/16. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to the caseload forecast council; amending RCW  
2 43.88C.010, 43.88C.020, and 43.88C.050; and creating a new section.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.88C.010 and 2015 c 128 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The caseload forecast council is hereby created. The council  
7 shall consist of two individuals appointed by the governor and four  
8 individuals, one of whom is appointed by the chairperson of each of  
9 the two largest political caucuses in the senate and house of  
10 representatives. The chair of the council shall be selected from  
11 among the four caucus appointees. The council may select such other  
12 officers as the members deem necessary.

13 (2) The council shall employ a caseload forecast supervisor to  
14 supervise the preparation of all caseload forecasts. As used in this  
15 chapter, "supervisor" means the caseload forecast supervisor.

16 (3) Approval by an affirmative vote of at least five members of  
17 the council is required for any decisions regarding employment of the  
18 supervisor. Employment of the supervisor shall terminate after each  
19 term of three years. At the end of the first year of each three-year  
20 term the council shall consider extension of the supervisor's term by  
21 one year. The council may fix the compensation of the supervisor. The

1 supervisor shall employ staff sufficient to accomplish the purposes  
2 of this section.

3 (4) The caseload forecast council shall oversee the preparation  
4 of and approve, by an affirmative vote of at least four members, the  
5 official state caseload forecasts prepared under RCW 43.88C.020. If  
6 the council is unable to approve a forecast before a date required in  
7 RCW 43.88C.020, the supervisor shall submit the forecast without  
8 approval and the forecast shall have the same effect as if approved  
9 by the council.

10 (5) A councilmember who does not cast an affirmative vote for  
11 approval of the official caseload forecast may request, and the  
12 supervisor shall provide, an alternative forecast based on  
13 assumptions specified by the member.

14 (6) Members of the caseload forecast council shall serve without  
15 additional compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel expenses  
16 in accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the  
17 council or on official business authorized by the council.  
18 Nonlegislative members of the council shall be reimbursed for travel  
19 expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

20 (7) "Caseload," as used in this chapter, means:

21 (a) The number of persons expected to meet entitlement  
22 requirements and require the services of public assistance programs,  
23 state correctional institutions, state correctional noninstitutional  
24 supervision, state institutions for juvenile offenders, the common  
25 school system, long-term care, medical assistance, foster care, and  
26 adoption support;

27 (b) The number of students who are eligible for the Washington  
28 college bound scholarship program and are expected to attend an  
29 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.92.030;

30 (c) The number of children who are eligible, as defined in RCW  
31 43.215.405, to participate in, and the number of children actually  
32 served by, the early childhood education and assistance program.

33 (8) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the temporary  
34 assistance for needy families and the working connections child care  
35 programs as a courtesy.

36 (9) The caseload forecast council shall forecast youth  
37 participating in the extended foster care program pursuant to RCW  
38 74.13.031 separately from other children who are residing in foster  
39 care and who are under eighteen years of age.

1       (10) The caseload forecast council shall forecast the number of  
2 nonmedicaid persons expected to enroll in qualified health or dental  
3 plans offered by the health benefit exchange established in RCW  
4 43.71.020.

5       (11) The caseload forecast council shall forecast early achiever  
6 quality award and tiered reimbursement, levels 2 through 5, for the  
7 working connections child care, seasonal child care, and homeless  
8 child care programs.

9       (12) Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the  
10 definitions provided in RCW 43.88.020 apply to this chapter.

11       **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.88C.020 and 1997 c 168 s 2 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13       (1) In consultation with the caseload forecast work group  
14 established under RCW 43.88C.030, and subject to the approval of the  
15 caseload forecast council under RCW 43.88C.010, the supervisor shall  
16 prepare:

17       (a) An official state caseload forecast; and

18       (b) Other caseload forecasts based on alternative assumptions as  
19 the council may determine.

20       (2) The supervisor shall submit caseload forecasts prepared under  
21 this section, along with any unofficial forecasts provided under RCW  
22 43.88C.010, to the governor and the members of the legislative fiscal  
23 committees, including one copy to the staff of each of the  
24 committees. The forecasts shall be submitted at least three times  
25 each year and on such dates as the council determines will facilitate  
26 the development of budget proposals by the governor and the  
27 legislature.

28       (3) All agencies of state government and the health benefit  
29 exchange established in RCW 43.71.020 shall provide to the supervisor  
30 immediate access to all information relating to caseload forecasts.

31       (4) The administrator of the legislative evaluation and  
32 accountability program committee may request, and the supervisor  
33 shall provide, alternative caseload forecasts based on assumptions  
34 specified by the administrator.

35       (5) The official state caseload forecast under this section shall  
36 be the basis of the governor's budget document as provided in RCW  
37 43.88.030 and utilized by the legislature in the development of the  
38 omnibus biennial appropriations act.

1       **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.88C.050 and 2015 c 128 s 3 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       The caseload forecast council shall appoint a research staff of  
4 sufficient size and with sufficient resources to accomplish its  
5 duties. The caseload forecast council may request from the  
6 administrative office of the courts, the department of early  
7 learning, the department of corrections, the health care authority,  
8 the superintendent of public instruction, the Washington student  
9 achievement council, the department of social and health services,  
10 ~~((and))~~ other agencies, and the health benefit exchange established  
11 in RCW 43.71.020, with caseloads forecasted by the council, such  
12 data, information, and data processing assistance as it may need to  
13 accomplish its duties, and such services shall be provided without  
14 cost to the caseload forecast council.

15       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 4.** (1) The first forecast of the number of  
16 nonmedicaid persons expected to enroll in qualified health or dental  
17 plans offered by the health benefit exchange, as required by RCW  
18 43.88C.010(10), shall be prepared by the caseload forecast council in  
19 time to facilitate the development of budget proposals by the  
20 governor for the 2017 legislative session.

21       (2) The first forecast of early achiever quality award and tiered  
22 reimbursement, levels 2 through 5, for the working connections child  
23 care, seasonal child care, and homeless child care programs, as  
24 required by RCW 43.88C.010(11), shall be prepared by the caseload  
25 forecast council in time to facilitate the development of budget  
26 proposals by the governor for the 2017 legislative session.

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