

House Bill 3380

Sponsored by Representative KOMP; Representatives HUFFMAN, SMITH WARNER, Senators MONROE, ROBLAN

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Early Learning Division to administer preschool program. Prescribes requirements of program.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to preschool programs; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2015 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 329.170 to**
5 **329.200.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) The Early Learning Division shall administer a preschool program as**
7 **provided by this section. The preschool program shall expand preschool options available to**
8 **the children of this state.**

9 **(2) For the purpose of expanding preschool options, Early Learning Hubs shall coordinate**
10 **the providers of preschool programs under this section. The Early Learning Hubs shall apply**
11 **for state funding, coordinate local planning and enter into contracts with preschool provid-**
12 **ers.**

13 **(3) A preschool provider that meets the requirements of this subsection may apply to**
14 **participate in the preschool program described in this section. The preschool provider:**

15 **(a) Must be establishing a new preschool program or expanding an existing preschool**
16 **program.**

17 **(b) Must meet or exceed the requirements of subsection (4) of this section.**

18 **(c) May be a Head Start program, an Oregon prekindergarten program, a child care**
19 **provider, a relief nursery, a private preschool, a public school, a public charter school, an**
20 **education service district or a community-based organization that provides a preschool pro-**
21 **gram.**

22 **(4) A preschool provider may participate in the preschool program described in this sec-**
23 **tion if the provider's preschool program:**

24 **(a) Provides, at a minimum, the annual number of instructional hours required for full-**
25 **day kindergarten.**

26 **(b) Takes into consideration the scheduling needs of families who need full-time child**
27 **care.**

28 **(c) Serves children who are:**

29 **(A) At least three years of age but not older than five years of age, as determined by the**
30 **date used to determine kindergarten eligibility; and**

31 **(B) Members of families whose incomes, at the time of enrollment, are at or below 200**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

2 (d) Provides continuity from infant and toddler services to early elementary grades.

3 (e) Demonstrates quality through meeting standards, including:

4 (A) Attaining one of the top two ratings of the quality rating and improvement system
5 for early childhood programs.

6 (B) Adopting culturally responsive teaching methods and practices.

7 (C) Providing a high quality, culturally responsive family engagement environment that
8 supports parents as partners in a child's learning and development.

9 (D) Providing high quality, culturally responsive curricula, assessments and professional
10 development that are linked to one another and to the state's comprehensive early learning
11 standards.

12 (E) Providing highly trained lead preschool teachers who have at least a bachelor's de-
13 gree in early childhood education or a field related to early childhood education and who are
14 provided with a salary that is comparable to lead kindergarten teachers in the public school
15 districts served by the same Early Learning Hub. The salary requirement of this subpara-
16 graph may be phased in over a period of 10 years, but must start with a minimum salary that
17 is 60 percent of the lead kindergarten teachers in the public school districts served by the
18 same Early Learning Hub.

19 (F) Providing at least one assistant in each classroom who provides support for academic
20 instruction and who meets the state's personnel qualification requirements of one of the top
21 two tiers for the quality rating and improvement system for early childhood programs.

22 (G) Providing additional health and child development supports for children and families,
23 such as screening, referrals and coordination with health care providers.

24 (f) Incorporates best practices in outreach, enrollment and programming for diverse
25 cultural and linguistic populations and children who have been historically underserved in
26 preschool programs.

27 (g) Works in collaboration with community programs to ensure that families have
28 knowledge of, and are connected to, community resources and supports to meet the needs
29 of children and families served by the preschool program.

30 (h) Participates in an ongoing monitoring and program evaluation system that is used for
31 continuous program improvement.

32 (5)(a) While any moneys received under a contract entered into as provided by this sec-
33 tion must be used to serve children described in subsection (4)(c) of this section, nothing in
34 subsection (4)(c) of this section prevents a preschool provider from serving additional chil-
35 dren, including children who:

36 (A) Pay tuition for the preschool program and whose family incomes at the time of en-
37 rollment exceeds 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

38 (B) Are funded by the Oregon prekindergarten program, a Head Start program or an-
39 other source of funding.

40 (b) If a preschool program serves children described in paragraph (a) of this subsection,
41 moneys received under a contract as provided by this section may not be used to pay for
42 expenses incurred for the children described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

43 (6) A preschool program may receive a waiver of any of the requirements described in
44 subsection (4) of this section if the waiver:

45 (a) Is for a preschool program that is maintaining progress toward quality;

1 (b) Is anticipated for the first years of the preschool program only; and

2 (c) Is granted for only one year at a time.

3 (7) To assist the Early Learning Division in administering this section, the Early Learn-
4 ing Council shall:

5 (a) Identify resources necessary for the Early Learning Division to develop, support and
6 sustain the implementation of a high quality preschool program, including evaluations, pro-
7 fessional development opportunities, technical assistance, monitoring guidance and adminis-
8 trative assistance.

9 (b) Ensure that pathways and supports are available to teaching staff to increase cul-
10 turally and linguistically diverse staff to teach and assist in preschool classrooms.

11 (c) Administer waivers as described in subsection (6) of this section.

12 (8) Each biennium, the Early Learning Division shall submit a report to the Legislative
13 Assembly that describes:

14 (a) The number of children served by the preschool program described in this section,
15 including the number of children:

16 (A) Whose family incomes are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines;

17 (B) Whose family incomes are between 100 and 200 percent of the federal poverty guide-
18 lines;

19 (C) Who pay tuition; and

20 (D) Who are eligible for Head Start programs.

21 (b) The cost to serve each child described in subsection (4)(c) of this section.

22 (c) The level of state support received for implementing the preschool program described
23 in this section.

24 (d) The effectiveness of the preschool program described in this section, including stu-
25 dent progress and outcomes.

26 (e) Improvements that have been made to the administration and evaluation of the pre-
27 school program to improve the effectiveness of the program.

28 (9) The Early Learning Division shall coordinate with the Department of Education and
29 other state agencies in support of the preschool program described in this section.

30 (10) The Early Learning Division shall prescribe the form and timeline for applications
31 to participate in the preschool program as provided by this section.

32 **SECTION 3.** The Early Learning Division shall submit the first report required by section
33 2 (8) of this 2015 Act no later than February 1, 2017.

34 **SECTION 4.** This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
35 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect
36 on its passage.

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