House Bill 2024

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Presession filed (at the request of Governor Kate Brown for Department of Education)

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 establish program to improve access to high quality infant and toddler care for families that are eligible to receive employment-related child care subsidy.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to early childhood care.

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

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, “local entity” includes:

(a) An Early Learning Hub designated under ORS 417.827;
(b) A resource and referral entity established under ORS 329A.100 to 329A.135;
(c) An education service district;
(d) A federal Head Start program;
(e) A community-based organization; or
(f) Another entity identified by the Early Learning Division.

(2) The Early Learning Division shall administer an infant and toddler care program to improve access to high quality infant and toddler care for families that are eligible to receive an employment-related child care subsidy under ORS 329A.500.

(3)(a) Each Early Learning Hub shall conduct a community needs assessment to identify the geographic areas or populations within the region served by the hub that have the highest need for improved access to high quality infant and toddler care for families that are eligible to receive an employment-related child care subsidy under ORS 329A.500.

(b) After conducting the community needs assessment described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, each Early Learning Hub shall develop a community plan for addressing the needs identified in the assessment and submit the plan to the Early Learning Division for approval.

(4)(a) The Early Learning Division shall contract with resource and referral entities established under ORS 329A.100 to 329A.135 to recruit eligible providers to participate in the infant and toddler care program established under this section.

(b) To be eligible to participate, a provider must demonstrate a commitment and ability to:

(A) Address the needs identified in the community plan approved by the Early Learning Division under subsection (3) of this section;

(B) Provide care to infants and toddlers; and

(C) Serve families that are eligible to receive an employment-related child care subsidy under ORS 329A.500.

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.

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(a) The Early Learning Division shall identify a local entity within each Early Learning Hub region that shall be responsible for awarding grants and contracts to providers who meet the eligibility criteria established under subsection (4) of this section.

(b) Before a provider may be awarded a grant or contract under this section, the provider must agree to participate in any quality improvement and professional development activities necessary to meet the standards established by the Early Learning Division.

(6) Resource and referral entities shall:

(a) In consultation with each provider awarded a grant or contract under this section, develop a quality improvement and professional development plan for the provider; and

(b) Provide coaching and other professional development services necessary to execute the plan developed under this subsection.