A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to early learning certification.

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Early Learning Division shall develop a multi-level system of certification for early learning professionals.

(2)(a) The system of certification shall provide that each level of certification builds on the previous level of certification and prepares a student for the next level of certification.

(b) Each level of certification after an initial certification must require coursework in:

(A) Child development, including language and literacy development, observation and assessment, the development of environments for young children, curriculum development, and responsiveness to the needs of the child, family and community; and

(B) A specialization identified in subsection (3) of this section.

(c) The final level of certification must provide a student with the foundation for an associate degree related to early learning.

(3) After the initial certification in the system, the student shall specialize in any of the following areas:

(a) General early learning;

(b) Infant and toddler care;

(c) School-aged care;

(d) Family child care; and

(e) Administration of early learning.

(4) The multi-level system of certification shall be provided in community colleges or workplaces that are able to provide certification as provided by rules of the Early Learning Council.

(5) The Early Learning Council may adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this section.