

HB 3027 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Action Date: 03/22/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-3-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Andersen, Hartman, Nelson, Neron, Nguyen H, Reynolds, Scharf

Nays: 3 - Cramer, Elmer, Hieb

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/20, 3/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), in consultation with Department of Human Services, to convene work group that would study optimal use of child care navigators. Defines "child care navigator" as entity that assists families with enrolling in Employment Related Day Care, Preschool Promise, infant and toddler care, Early Head Start, Oregon Prekindergarten, and other child care and early learning programs. Prescribes scope of work group responsibilities. Authorizes Early Learning Council to adopt rules for implementation. Requires DELIC to report twice on work group findings to interim legislative committees. Sunsets January 2, 2025. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difficulty in accessing and applying for child care assistance programs
- Operation of ONE eligibility system
- Navigators as solution to complex policy environment
- Outcome of work group
- Transfer of ERDC administration to DELIC
- Types of entities eligible to act as navigators

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The State of Oregon operates several early learning and child care programs in conjunction with local providers. The Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program, which is currently operated by the Department of Human Services (DHS) but will be turned over to the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), provides subsidized access to child care for families with working parents. Other programs are operated by the Early Learning Division (ELD) of the Oregon Department of Education; the division will convert into DELIC on July 1, 2023. These programs include Preschool Promise, which offers free preschool to low-income families, and the Head Start, Early Head Start, and Oregon Prekindergarten programs, which provide wraparound supports including health and nutrition, parental education, and early learning services to low-income families. Families access ERDC through the ONE eligibility portal operated by DHS. Families may access ELD's programs through child care providers.

House Bill 3027 A requires DELIC to convene a work group to study the optimal use of child care navigators to assist families with accessing child care and early learning programs and report to the legislature with recommendations.