

**A-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 3027**

Ordered by the House March 24  
Including House Amendments dated March 24

Sponsored by Representative NERON; Representatives LEVY B, NGUYEN H, PHAM H, PHAM K, Senator MEEK  
(Presession filed.)

**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.

*[Directs Department of Early Learning and Care to enter into contracts with entities to provide services as navigator of employment related day care. Prescribes requirements of entities to enter into contract.]*

**Directs Department of Early Learning and Care, in consultation with Department of Human Services, to convene work group to study optimal use of child care navigators to support access to and enrollment in child care and early learning programs. Requires Department of Early Learning and Care to submit two reports to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to early childhood no later than November 30, 2023, and July 30, 2024.**

**Sunset January 2, 2025.**

**Declares emergency, effective on passage.**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

Relating to child care navigators; and declaring an emergency.

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

**SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, "child care navigator" means an entity that assists families with accessing and enrolling in child care and early learning programs, including, but not limited to, the Employment Related Day Care subsidy program, the Preschool Promise Program, the infant and toddler care program administered under ORS 417.784, Early Head Start programs and the Oregon Prekindergarten program.**

**(2) The Department of Early Learning and Care, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, including the director of the Oregon Eligibility Partnership or the director's designee, shall convene a work group of stakeholders with relevant background, experience or knowledge to study the optimal use of child care navigators to support access to and enrollment in child care and early learning programs in this state.**

**(3) In conducting the study, the work group shall:**

**(a) Examine the feasibility of the Department of Early Learning and Care hiring or contracting with community-based child care navigators to assist families in accessing and enrolling in child care and early learning programs.**

**(b) Research options to assist families in identifying and enrolling in child care and early learning programs, including options such as assisting families in analyzing eligibility criteria and completing application processes.**

**(c) Compile a list of best practices to conduct outreach and public education for populations that may be eligible to participate in child care and early learning programs.**

**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 (d) Study options for assisting families in overcoming barriers to accessing and enrolling  
2 in child care or early learning programs, including barriers related to affordability, trans-  
3 portation, culture or language.

4 (e) Identify entities that may be qualified to operate as child care navigators, including,  
5 but not limited to, culturally specific community-based organizations, the nine federally re-  
6 cognized tribes in Oregon, school districts, education service districts, organizations that  
7 provide child care resource or referral services, Early Learning Hubs and joint labor-  
8 management committees that administer child care benefits to employees.

9 (f) Identify and analyze the changes required to make viable the position of child care  
10 navigator, including changes to existing information technology systems, agency processes,  
11 application processes, outreach practices, existing or new contracts, state or local laws or  
12 administrative rules.

13 (g) Analyze how child care navigators may assist the following groups with accessing and  
14 enrolling in child care or early learning programs:

15 (A) Parents or guardians of an infant, toddler or child with a diagnosed disability.

16 (B) Historically marginalized populations.

17 (C) Communities seeking culturally or linguistically specific services.

18 (D) Populations seeking evening, overnight or weekend care.

19 (E) Rural communities.

20 (F) Other communities with an extreme insufficiency of child care providers.

21 (4) The Early Learning Council may adopt any rules necessary for the implementation  
22 of the provisions of this section.

23 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Department of Early Learning and Care shall prepare and submit,  
24 in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, two reports on the findings of the study described  
25 in section 1 of this 2023 Act, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim  
26 committees of the Legislative Assembly related to early childhood.

27 (2)(a) The first report is due no later than November 30, 2023.

28 (b) The second report is due no later than July 30, 2024.

29 **SECTION 3.** Sections 1 and 2 of this 2023 Act are repealed on January 2, 2025.

30 **SECTION 4.** This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
31 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect  
32 on its passage.  
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