

HB 2593 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/25, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) to study the impact of the waitlist to participate in the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) subsidy program and to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026.

Detailed Summary

Directs DELIC to study the impact of the ERDC waitlist on student and working parents and submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026. Requires the study to:

- Develop a proposal to change the name of the program to the Oregon Child Care Affordability Program;
- Identify strategies to expand outreach effort to certain populations to increase representation of student and working parents in the program caseload;
- Determine the number of families whose participation in ERDC is based on each eligibility criteria, and determine the percentage that each eligibility criteria represents in the ERDC caseload;
- Determine the number of families in the program whose children are in contracted slots.

REVENUE: No revenue impact.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Changing the name of the ERDC.
- Copay amounts under ERDC.
- Income eligibility for the ERDC program.
- Promotion of ERDC program.
- Availability of child care providers.
- Data currently collected on ERDC applicants.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 The amendment replaces the measure. The amendment changes the name of the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) subsidy program to the Oregon Child Care Affordability Program on July 1, 2027. It directs the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) to collaborate with no more than 10 stakeholders to study and develop recommendations to remove families from the ERDC wait-list, outlines individuals who must be included in the group of interested stakeholders, and requires DELIC to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 30, 2026.

Detailed Summary:

Oregon Child Care Affordability Program

- Changes the name of the Employment Related Day Care subsidy program to the Oregon Child Care Affordability Program, operative July 1, 2027.
- Directs DELIC to reflect the name of the Oregon Child Care Affordability Program in department resources on and after July 1, 2027, and permits DELIC to take necessary action before the operative date.

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- Directs the Early Learning Council to adopt rules to reflect the name of the Oregon Child Care Affordability Program on and after July 1, 2027, and permits the Council to take necessary action before the operative date.

Stakeholder Consultation

- Directs DELC to collaborate with no more than 10 individual stakeholders to study and develop recommendations to remove families from the ERDC waitlist.
- Outlines individual representatives that must be included in the group of interested stakeholders.
- Requires DELC to submit a report on recommendations developed by the group of stakeholders to the Legislative Assembly by September 30, 2026.
- Sunsets January 2, 2027.

BACKGROUND:

[The Employment Related Day Care](#) (ERDC) program provides subsidized access to child care for families with working parents, parents who are in school, or families that receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The program is administered by the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC). Eligibility for the program is typically determined based on family income, but other factors such as whether parents are enrolled in school may be considered. [According to DELC](#), as of March 2025, the income limit for ERDC initial eligibility is 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL).

Eligibility for ERDC has expanded in recent years. [HB 2683](#), passed by the Legislative Assembly in 2023, directed the Early Learning Council to establish rules that independently considered factors such as household income, the family's use of or risk of needing to use child welfare services, and the family's use of or risk of needing to use homelessness services. Under HB 2683, aspects of these rules must be implemented by July 2025 and July 2027.

In November 2023, ERDC opened a waitlist due to increased program demand ([DELC, 2024](#)). Some families, such as those receiving TANF, may bypass the waitlist. [According to DELC](#), families who apply for ERDC are screened for bypass exemptions. If they do not meet a bypass, they are added to the waitlist but are not screened for full ERDC eligibility. This means that the waitlist is not necessarily a representation of eligible families for ERDC.

The [ERDC Program Data](#) dashboard publishes data related to the program including the number of families on the waitlist. According to the dashboard, there were 10,200 families on the waitlist as of March 11, 2025.