

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301
(503) 986-1828



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WAYS AND MEANS

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To: Education Subcommittee
From: Wendy Gibson, Legislative Fiscal Office
Date: February 24, 2026
Subject: SB 1535 – Relating to child care; prescribing an effective date.
Work Session Recommendations

SB 1535 modifies the Employment Related Day Care subsidy program (ERDC) priority consideration for families under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program by making the ERDC priority qualification for TANF families optional. Current statute requires the Department of Early Learning and Care to allow all TANF families to bypass the ERDC waitlist; however, the agency's budget cannot sustain the current rate of caseload increase. Changing this requirement will enable the agency to stay within budget by temporarily pausing the TANF bypass to help control caseload growth. SB 1535 also directs the agency to convene a work group to study the cost and availability of liability insurance, as well as other liability issues affecting child care providers. The child care liability insurance work group is to provide a summary report of findings to the Legislature by November 1, 2027.

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that SB 1535 be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move SB 1535 to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation.
(vote)

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____