
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6170

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senators Pelz and McDonald; by request of Department of Community Development)

Read first time 02/01/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to clarifying the statutory language governing the
2 early childhood education and assistance program; amending RCW
3 28A.215.100, 28A.215.110, 28A.215.120, 28A.215.130, 28A.215.150,
4 28A.215.160, 28A.215.170, 28A.215.180, and 28A.215.200; amending 1988
5 c 174 s 1 (uncodified); amending 1987 c 518 s 1 (uncodified); and
6 providing an effective date.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

8 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.215.100 and 1985 c 418 s 1 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 It is the intent of the legislature to establish (~~(a preschool)~~) an
11 early childhood state education and assistance program. This special
12 assistance program is a voluntary enrichment program to help prepare
13 some children to enter the common school system and shall be offered
14 only as funds are available. This program is not a part of the basic
15 program of education which must be fully funded by the legislature
16 under Article IX, section 1 of the state Constitution.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.215.110 and 1990 c 33 s 213 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

1 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in
2 this section apply throughout RCW 28A.215.100 through 28A.215.200 and
3 28A.215.900 through 28A.215.908.

4 (1) "Advisory committee" means the advisory committee under RCW
5 28A.215.140.

6 (~~(2) ("At risk" means a child not eligible for kindergarten whose
7 family circumstances would qualify that child for eligibility under the
8 federal head start program.~~

9 ~~(3))~~ "Department" means the department of community, trade, and
10 economic development.

11 ~~((4))~~ (3) "Eligible child" means ~~((an at risk child as defined in
12 this section))~~ a child not eligible for kindergarten whose family
13 income is at or below one hundred percent of the federal poverty level,
14 as published annually by the federal department of health and human
15 services, and includes a child whose family is eligible for public
16 assistance, and who is not a participant in a federal or state program
17 providing ((like educational)) comprehensive services and may include
18 children who are eligible under rules adopted by the department if the
19 number of such children equals not more than ten percent of the total
20 enrollment in the ((preschool)) early childhood program. Priority for
21 enrollment shall be given to children from families with the lowest
22 income or to eligible children from families with multiple needs.

23 ~~((5))~~ (4) "Approved ~~((preschool))~~ programs" means those state-
24 supported education and special assistance programs which are
25 recognized by the department of community, trade, and economic
26 development as meeting the minimum program rules adopted by the
27 department to qualify under RCW 28A.215.100 through 28A.215.200 and
28 28A.215.900 through 28A.215.908 and are designated as eligible for
29 funding by the department under RCW 28A.215.160 and 28A.215.180.

30 (5) "Comprehensive services" means an assistance program that
31 focuses on the needs of the child and includes education, health, and
32 family support services.

33 (6) "Family support services" means providing opportunities for
34 parents to:

35 (a) Actively participate in their child's early childhood program;

36 (b) Increase their knowledge of child development and parenting
37 skills;

38 (c) Further their education and training;

39 (d) Increase their ability to use needed services in the community;

1 (e) Increase their self-reliance.

2 **Sec. 3.** 1988 c 174 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

3 The legislature finds that the early childhood education and
4 assistance program provides for the educational, social, health,
5 nutritional, and cultural development of children at risk of failure
6 when they reach school age. The long-term benefits to society in the
7 form of greater educational attainment, employment, and projected
8 lifetime earnings as well as the savings to be realized, from lower
9 crime rates, welfare support, and reduced teenage pregnancy, have been
10 demonstrated through lifelong research of at-risk children and
11 (~~preschool~~) early childhood programs.

12 (~~The legislature further finds that existing federal head start
13 programs and state-supported early childhood education programs provide
14 services for less than one third of the eligible children in
15 Washington.~~)

16 The legislature intends to encourage development of community
17 partnerships for children at risk by authorizing a program of voluntary
18 grants and contributions from business and community organizations to
19 increase opportunities for children to participate in early childhood
20 education.

21 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.215.120 and 1988 c 174 s 3 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 The department of community, trade, and economic development shall
24 administer a state-supported (~~preschool~~) early childhood education
25 and assistance program to assist eligible children with educational,
26 social, health, nutritional, and cultural development to enhance their
27 opportunity for success in the common school system. Eligible children
28 shall be admitted to approved (~~preschool~~) early childhood programs to
29 the extent that the legislature provides funds, and additional eligible
30 children may be admitted to the extent that grants and contributions
31 from community sources provide sufficient funds for a program
32 equivalent to that supported by state funds.

33 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.215.130 and 1988 c 174 s 4 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 Approved (~~preschool~~) early childhood programs shall receive
36 state-funded support through the department. (~~School districts, and~~

1 ~~existing head start grantees in cooperation with school districts))~~
2 Public or private nonsectarian organizations, including, but not
3 limited to school districts, educational service districts, community
4 and technical colleges, local governments, or nonprofit organizations,
5 are eligible to participate as providers of the state ((~~preschool~~))
6 early childhood program. ((~~School districts may contract with other~~
7 ~~governmental or nongovernmental nonsectarian organizations to conduct~~
8 ~~a portion of the state program.~~)) Funds appropriated for the state
9 program shall be used to continue to operate existing programs or to
10 establish new or expanded ((~~preschool~~)) early childhood programs, and
11 shall not be used to supplant federally supported head start programs.
12 Funds obtained by providers through voluntary grants or contributions
13 from individuals, agencies, corporations, or organizations may be used
14 to expand or enhance preschool programs so long as program standards
15 established by the department are maintained, but shall not be used to
16 supplant federally supported head start programs or state-supported
17 ((~~preschool~~)) early childhood programs. Persons applying to conduct
18 the ((~~preschool~~)) early childhood program shall identify targeted
19 groups and the number of children to be served, program components, the
20 qualifications of instructional and special staff, the source and
21 amount of grants or contributions from sources other than state funds,
22 facilities and equipment support, and transportation and personal care
23 arrangements.

24 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.215.150 and 1988 c 174 s 6 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 The department shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW for the
27 administration of the ((~~preschool~~)) early childhood program. ((~~Federal~~
28 ~~head start program criteria, including set aside provisions for the~~))
29 Approved early childhood programs shall conduct needs assessments of
30 their service area, identify any targeted groups of children, to
31 include but not be limited to children of seasonal and migrant
32 farmworkers and native American populations living either on or off
33 reservation, ((~~to the extent practicable, shall be considered as~~
34 ~~guidelines for the state preschool early childhood assistance program~~))
35 and provide to the department a service delivery plan, to the extent
36 practicable, that addresses these targeted populations.

37 The department in developing rules for the ((~~preschool~~)) early
38 childhood program shall consult with the advisory committee, and shall

1 consider such factors as coordination with existing head start and
2 other (~~((preschool))~~) early childhood programs, the preparation necessary
3 for instructors, qualifications of instructors, adequate space and
4 equipment, and special transportation needs. The rules shall
5 specifically require the (~~((preschool))~~) early childhood programs to
6 provide for parental involvement (~~((at a level not less than that
7 provided under the federal head start program criteria))~~) in
8 participation with their child's program, in local program policy
9 decisions, in development and revision of service delivery systems, and
10 in parent education and training.

11 **Sec. 7.** 1987 c 518 s 1 (uncodified) is amended to read as follows:

12 The long-term social, community welfare, and economic interests of
13 the state will be served by an investment in our children. Conclusive
14 studies and experiences show that providing children with (~~((certain))~~)
15 developmental experiences and providing parents with effective parental
16 ((guidance)) partnership, empowerment, opportunities for involvement
17 with their child's developmental learning, and expanding parenting
18 skills, learning, and training can greatly improve ((their)) children's
19 performance in school as well as increase the likelihood of ((their))
20 children's success as adults. National studies have also confirmed
21 that special attention to, and educational assistance for, children
22 ((and)), their school environment ((is)), and their families are the
23 most effective ways in which to meet the state's social and economic
24 goals.

25 The legislature intends to enhance the readiness to learn of
26 certain children and students by: Providing for an expansion of the
27 state early childhood education and assistance program for children
28 from low-income families and establishing an adult literacy program for
29 certain parents; assisting school districts to establish elementary
30 counseling programs; instituting a program to address learning problems
31 due to drug and alcohol use and abuse; and establishing a program
32 directed at students who leave school before graduation.

33 The legislature intends further to establish programs that will
34 allow for parental, business, and community involvement in assisting
35 the school systems throughout the state to enhance the ability of
36 children to learn.

1 **Sec. 8.** RCW 28A.215.160 and 1988 c 174 s 7 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 The department shall review applications from public or private
4 nonsectarian organizations for state funding of early childhood
5 education and assistance programs and award funds (~~((on a competitive~~
6 ~~basis))~~) as determined by department rules and based on local community
7 needs and demonstrated capacity to provide services.

8 **Sec. 9.** RCW 28A.215.170 and 1988 c 174 s 8 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 The governor shall report to the legislature before each regular
11 session of the legislature convening in an odd-numbered year, on the
12 (~~((merits of continuing and expanding the preschool program or~~
13 ~~instituting other means of providing early childhood development~~
14 ~~assistance. The))~~) current status of the program, the state-wide need
15 for early childhood program services, and the plans to address these
16 needs. The department shall consult with the office of the
17 superintendent of public instruction (~~((shall assist the governor))~~) in
18 the preparation of the biennial report and (~~((shall be consulted))~~) on
19 all issues of mutual concern addressed in (~~((said))~~) the report.

20 (~~((If the governor recommends the continuation of a state-funded~~
21 ~~preschool program, then))~~) The governor's report shall include specific
22 recommendations on at least the following issues:

23 (1) The desired relationships of a state-funded (~~((preschool))~~) early
24 childhood education and assistance program with the common school
25 system;

26 (2) The types of children and their needs that the program should
27 serve;

28 (3) The appropriate level of state support for implementing a
29 comprehensive (~~((preschool))~~) early childhood education and assistance
30 program for all eligible children, including related programs to
31 prepare instructors and provide facilities, equipment, and
32 transportation;

33 (4) The state administrative structure necessary to implement the
34 program; and

35 (5) The establishment of a system to examine and monitor the
36 effectiveness of (~~((preschool))~~) early childhood educational and
37 assistance services for (~~((disadvantaged))~~) eligible children to measure,
38 among other elements, if possible, how the average level of performance

1 of children completing this program compare to the average level of
2 performance of all state students in their grade level, and to the
3 average level of performance of those ((at-risk)) eligible students who
4 ((~~do~~)) did not have access to this program. The evaluation system
5 shall examine how the percentage of these children needing access to
6 special education or remedial programs compares to the overall
7 percentage of children needing such services and compares to the
8 percentage of ((at-risk)) eligible students who ((~~do~~)) did not have
9 access to this program needing such services.

10 **Sec. 10.** RCW 28A.215.180 and 1990 c 33 s 214 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 For the purposes of RCW 28A.215.100 through 28A.215.200 and
13 28A.215.900 through 28A.215.908, the department may award state support
14 under RCW 28A.215.100 through 28A.215.160 to increase the numbers of
15 eligible children assisted by the federal or state-supported
16 ((~~preschool~~)) early childhood programs in this state ((~~by up to five~~
17 ~~thousand additional children~~)). Priority shall be given to ((~~groups~~
18 ~~in~~)) those geographical areas which include a high percentage of
19 families qualifying under the ((~~federal "at-risk"~~)) "eligible child"
20 criteria. The overall program funding level shall be based on an
21 average grant per child consistent with state appropriations made for
22 program costs: PROVIDED, That programs addressing special needs of
23 selected groups or communities shall be recognized in the department's
24 rules.

25 **Sec. 11.** RCW 28A.215.200 and 1990 c 33 s 215 are each amended to
26 read as follows:

27 The department may solicit gifts, grants, conveyances, bequests and
28 devises for the use or benefit of the ((~~preschool~~)) early childhood
29 state education and assistance program established by RCW 28A.215.100
30 through 28A.215.200 and 28A.215.900 through 28A.215.908. The
31 department shall actively solicit support from business and industry
32 and from the federal government for the ((~~preschool~~)) state early
33 childhood education and assistance program and shall assist local
34 programs in developing partnerships with the community for ((~~children-~~
35 ~~at-risk~~)) eligible children.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** This act shall take effect July 1, 1994.

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