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SENATE BILL 5331

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Carrell, Zarelli, Becker, Stevens, Baumgartner, Hewitt, King, Schoesler, Swecker, and Holmquist Newbry

Read first time 01/20/11. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to conducting attendance and financial audits of  
2 child care providers receiving working connections child care  
3 subsidies; amending RCW 43.215.135; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that approximately two  
6 hundred thirty-one million dollars in general fund state dollars will  
7 be spent in the working connections child care program during the 2011-  
8 2013 biennium. Maintaining integrity in this program is of the utmost  
9 importance in ensuring that finite state resources are being used in an  
10 appropriate manner. The legislature further finds that thirty-two  
11 percent of overpayments made in public assistance programs during  
12 fiscal year 2009 were in the working connections child care program  
13 requiring extensive state employee resources to recoup these  
14 overpayments. The legislature believes that a number of overpayments  
15 can be avoided in the future with the use of a regularly scheduled  
16 audit program for a certain percentage of the working connections child  
17 care providers.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.215.135 and 2010 c 273 s 2 are each amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       (1) The department shall establish and implement policies in the  
4 working connections child care program to promote stability and quality  
5 of care for children from low-income households. Policies for the  
6 expenditure of funds constituting the working connections child care  
7 program must be consistent with the outcome measures defined in RCW  
8 74.08A.410 and the standards established in this section intended to  
9 promote continuity of care for children.

10       (2) Beginning in fiscal year 2011, for families with children  
11 enrolled in an early childhood education and assistance program, a head  
12 start program, or an early head start program, authorizations for the  
13 working connections child care subsidy shall be effective for twelve  
14 months unless a change in circumstances necessitates reauthorization  
15 sooner than twelve months.

16       (3) The department, in consultation with the department of social  
17 and health services, shall report to the legislature by September 1,  
18 2011, with:

19       (a) An analysis of the impact of the twelve-month authorization  
20 period on the stability of child care, program costs, and  
21 administrative savings; and

22       (b) Recommendations for expanding the application of the twelve-  
23 month authorization period to additional populations of children in  
24 care.

25       (4) Within existing resources, the department, with the assistance  
26 of the department of social and health services, shall annually conduct  
27 an audit of the attendance and financial records of thirty percent of  
28 the licensed and certified child care providers and fifty percent of  
29 the in-home and relative child care providers receiving a working  
30 connections child care subsidy. The providers to be audited must be  
31 selected on a random basis. The first audit period must conclude no  
32 later than December 1, 2011. The department shall annually report to  
33 the appropriate committees of the legislature the results of the audits  
34 conducted during the reporting period.

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