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SENATE BILL 5939

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senator McAuliffe

Read first time 04/14/11. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1 AN ACT Relating to copayments for the early childhood education and  
2 assistance program; amending RCW 43.215.410 and 43.215.425; adding a  
3 new section to chapter 43.215 RCW; providing an effective date; and  
4 declaring an emergency.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.215.410 and 2006 c 265 s 211 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 The department shall administer a state-supported early childhood  
9 education and assistance program to assist eligible children with  
10 educational, social, health, nutritional, and cultural development to  
11 enhance their opportunity for success in the common school system.  
12 Eligible children shall be admitted to approved early childhood  
13 programs to the extent that the legislature provides funds, and  
14 additional eligible children may be admitted to the extent that grants  
15 and contributions from community sources provide sufficient funds for  
16 a program equivalent to that supported by state funds. The department  
17 shall establish a copayment for each eligible child. All copayments  
18 must be deposited into the early childhood education and assistance

1 account established in section 3 of this act for the sole purpose of  
2 funding the early childhood education and assistance program.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.215.425 and 1994 c 166 s 6 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 The department shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW for the  
6 administration of the early childhood program, including but not  
7 limited to establishing copayments. Approved early childhood programs  
8 shall conduct needs assessments of their service area, identify any  
9 targeted groups of children, to include but not be limited to children  
10 of seasonal and migrant farmworkers and native American populations  
11 living either on or off reservation, and provide to the department a  
12 service delivery plan, to the extent practicable, that addresses these  
13 targeted populations.

14 The department in developing rules for the early childhood program  
15 shall consult with the advisory committee, and shall consider such  
16 factors as coordination with existing head start and other early  
17 childhood programs, the preparation necessary for instructors,  
18 qualifications of instructors, adequate space and equipment, and  
19 special transportation needs. The rules shall specifically require the  
20 early childhood programs to provide for parental involvement in  
21 participation with their child's program, in local program policy  
22 decisions, in development and revision of service delivery systems, and  
23 in parent education and training.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.215 RCW  
25 to read as follows:

26 The early childhood education and assistance account is created in  
27 the state treasury. All receipts collected from copayments under RCW  
28 43.215.410 must be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account may  
29 be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may  
30 be used solely for the purposes of the early childhood education and  
31 assistance program.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
33 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the

1 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
2 July 1, 2011.

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