

Early Learning Bill Tracker

LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2024: KEY BILLS ONLY



Please note that legislation changes quickly, so the version [on our website](#) may not represent a bill's latest version. This bill tracker is updated on Thursday of each week.

Also note this tracker only includes legislation introduced in 2023 with 2024 activity.

Bill No.	Prime Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status
SHB 1870	Barnard	Local Community Federal Funding	Directs the Dept. Of Commerce to continue and expand its efforts to assist local communities in successfully applying for federal grant dollars.	To Governor for action
SHB 1889	Walen	Professionals/Immigration	Allows individuals to receive licenses and certifications for specific professions regardless of immigration status.	Delivered to Governor on 3/1
SHB 1916	Senn	Early Support for Infants and Toddlers	Changes the monthly count date for the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers Program, allowing programs to be reimbursed for the first month of services.	Delivered to Governor on 3/4
SHB 1945	Alvarado	Food Assistance Access	Makes children eligible for federal or state Basic Food benefits categorically eligible for ECEAP and Early ECEAP. Also simplifies income eligibility requirements for Working Connections Child Care by providing that eligibility for federal or state Basic Food benefits satisfies WCCC income requirements.	To Governor for action
HB 2111	Nance	Subsidized Child Care	Technical bill that reorganizes and updates Working Connections Child Care statutes.	Delivered to Governor on 3/1

2SHB 2124	Eslick	Child Care Program Eligibility	Changes Working Connections Child Care work requirements to allow for family participation in Early ECEAP or Early Head Start. Makes inflationary adjustments to dual language and subsidy rate enhancements established in Fair Start for Kids Act a requirement, rather than subject to appropriation. Finally, allows employees of ECEAP or Early ECEAP to be eligible for Working Connections Child Care if their household income is below 85% of the state median income.	To Governor for action
SHB 2195	Callan	Early Learning Facilities	Makes changes to the Ruth LeCocq Kagi early learning facilities development account. Removes the ELF award limits effective 7/1/25; adds translation services as an eligible administrative cost; prioritizes applications for ELF construction, renovation, purchase, or repair grants to facilities that are ready for construction; and codifies language allowing ELF facilities collocated with housing developments to receive state funding for 90 percent of the project cost, regardless of the match amount.	To Governor for action
ESHB 2256	Callan	Children's Behavioral Health	Makes changes to the charge and membership of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Workgroup.	Delivered to Governor on 3/1

Bill No.	Prime Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status
SSB 5774	Billig	Fingerprint Background Checks	Requires DCYF to have the capacity to perform fingerprint background checks in its local early learning and child welfare offices.	To Governor for action
SB 5949	Mullet	Capital Budget, Supplemental	Capital Budget	To Governor for action
SB 5950	Robinson	Operating Budget, Supplemental	Operating Budget	To Governor for action
SSB 6038	Wilson, C.	Child Care Tax Preference	Effective 10/1/24, expands the business and occupation tax exemption to include income derived from child care. Floor amendments adopted in the House on 3/5 removed the section prohibiting DCYF from charging fees for child care licenses.	To Governor for action
E2SSB 6109	Wilson, C.	Children and Families	In addition to changing the removal standard for out-of-home placement for children due to the use or possession of a high potency synthetic opioid, the bill also provides for targeted, voluntary home visiting slots and other supports for families.	To Governor for action

BILLS THAT DID NOT ADVANCE IN THE 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill No.	Prime Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status
HB 1716	Rule	Tax Credit for Employers Providing Child Care Assistance	Establishes a business and occupation tax credit for businesses that provide child care assistance to employees.	Public Hearing in the House Finance Committee on 1/23 No Executive Session Scheduled
HB 1866	Ortiz-Self	Seasonal Farmworker Children	Directs the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to conduct a study looking at the academic and other needs of children of seasonal farmworkers and compare to services provided to migrant children.	Referred to the House Education Committee on 1/8
HB 2046	Dent	Child Care Alternative Requirements	Directs DCYF to annually publish a list of rural counties that are child care deserts. Also requires DCYF by 12/1/24 to contract with a nonprofit to create an instructional handbook related to the care of children. Any provider based in a county on the child care desert list would be exempt from any educational requirements as long as they read the handbook and the provider and their director or assistant director signs an attestation. Finally, in the counties on the child care desert list, increases maximum group size and ratio of staff to students for preschoolers and school-age children.	Public Hearing in the House Human Services, Youth & Early Learning Committee on 1/30
SHB 2052	Callan	Diaper Changing Stations	In any construction or renovation in which public restrooms are required, directs inclusion of baby diaper changing stations.	House Rules Committee
HB 2089 <i>Companion:</i> SB 5949	Tharinger	Supplemental Capital Budget	Supplemental Capital Budget	In Conference

HB 2092	Callan	School Construction Funding	Changes school construction assistance program funding formula to account for preschool and before-and-after school care program enrollments.	Public Hearing in the House Capital Budget Committee on 1/18 No Public Hearing Scheduled
HB 2101	Rule	Child Care Licensing Fees	Eliminates child care licensing fees.	Referred to the House Appropriations Committee No Public Hearing Scheduled
HB 2104 <i>Companion:</i> SB 5950	Ormsby	Supplemental Operating Budget	Supplemental Operating Budget	In Conference
HB 2155	Reeves	Credential Registry	Creates the Washington credential registry to provide information about educational and occupational credentials, including early learning pathways.	Referred to the House Appropriations Committee No Public Hearing Scheduled
HB 2179	Couture	Child Care Local Licensing	Allows counties with populations of less than 100,000 to license and regulate child care centers and family child care homes from 7/1/25 through 6/30/32. Bill provides further detail on this process.	Public Hearing in the House Human Services, Youth & Early Learning Committee on 1/30
SHB 2185	Dent	DCYF Oversight Board	Makes changes to the configuration, role and authority over the DCYF Oversight Board.	Scheduled for Executive Session in the House Appropriations Committee on 2/5

SHB 2243	Reeves	Social Equity Land Trust	Creates the children's social equity land trust wherein funding for child care deserts would be generated by revenue from working forests statewide.	Substitute Bill Passed by House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on 1/31 Referred to the House Capital Budget Committee No Public Hearing Scheduled
HB 2259	Rule	Threats of Harm to Children	In addition to changing the removal standard for out-of-home placement for children due to the use or possession of a high potency synthetic opioid, the bill also provides for targeted, voluntary home visiting slots and updates the Home Visiting statute	Referred to the House Human Services, Youth & Early Learning Committee on 1/10
HB 2264	Caldier	Family Home-Based Child Care	Changes the definition of family child care providers to exclude providers serving fewer than four children.	Referred to the House Human Services, Youth & Early Learning Committee on 1/10
HB 2300	Dent	Child Care Qualifications	Changes and extends child care educational requirements.	Referred to the House Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning Committee on 1/11
SHB 2322	Senn	Child Care/Tax Preferences	Directs the Office of Financial Management to study existing employer provided childcare programs, explore funding options, and include recommendations to expand and support access to childcare and how businesses can be part of the solution to fund child care.	House Rules Committee
HB 2350 <i>Companion:</i> SB 6172	Senn	Birth Doulas	Makes changes to the birth doula statute and provides that between 7/1/25 and 7/1/30, DOH may not impose any certification, examination or renewal fee and after 7/1/30, that fee shall be capped at \$95.	Referred to the House Health Care & Wellness Committee on 1/12

SHB 2447	Senn	Children and Families	In addition to changing the removal standard for out-of-home placement for children due to the use or possession of a high potency synthetic opioid, the bill also provides targeted, voluntary home visiting and child care slots and other supports for families.	House Rules Committee
HB 2468	Jacobsen	Child Care Facilities Siting	Prioritizes child care centers as a community priority and requires cities and counties to make comprehensive plans, development regulations, and zoning choices for the development of child care facilities in their communities.	Public Hearing in the House Local Government Committee on 1/30
HB 2479	Rule	Home Visiting	Creates targeted voluntary home visiting slots and makes adjustments to the existing Home Visiting Services Account.	Referred to the House of Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning on 1/25
SB 5870	Wilson, C.	Early Learning Programs	Changes eligibility for Working Connections Child Care, ECEAP and Early ECEAP for certain populations.	Public Hearing in the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee on 1/18
SB 5926	Muzzall	Medicaid/Continuous Coverage	Consistent with the recently approved Medicaid 1115 waiver, provides continuous Medicaid eligibility for children birth to age six and directs HCA to develop rules.	Referred to the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee on 1/8
SB 5941 <i>Companion:</i> HB 2111	Wilson, C.	Subsidized Child Care	Technical bill that reorganizes and updates Working Connections Child Care statutes.	Senate Rules Committee
SSB 5943	Gildon	Resource Knowledge Tool	Directs DSHS to conduct a feasibility study regarding the development of a resource data tool that would connect Washington residents to services and resources.	Scheduled for Public Hearing in the House Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning Committee on 2/20 and Executive Session on 2/21

SB 6018	Wilson, C.	Early Learning Coordinators	Subject to the availability of funding, directs each educational service district to designate an early learning coordinator to support collaboration, recruitment, enrollment and service delivery across the Pre-K through third grade continuum.	Referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee No Public Hearing Scheduled
SSB 6171	Wilson, L.	Criminal Justice/Child Care	Directs DCYF to conduct a feasibility study and provide cost estimates for the provision of child care for the children of peace officers and criminal justice personnel during shift work and abnormal work hours.	Scheduled for Public Hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on 2/3 No Executive Session Scheduled
SB 6172 <i>Companion:</i> HB 2350	Nobles	Birth Doulas	Makes changes to the birth doula statute and provides that between 7/1/25 and 7/1/30, DOH may not impose any certification, examination or renewal fee and after 7/1/30, that fee shall be capped at \$95.	Referred to the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee on 1/11

Start Early Washington updates this document weekly, posted every Thursday during the legislative session. For information on public hearings, specific bills or other legislative information, please visit <https://leg.wa.gov>.

For more information, please contact:

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