

Early Learning Bill Tracker

LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2026



Bill No.	Prime Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status
2SHB 1128	Fosse	Establishing a child care workforce standards board	<p>Creates the Washington State Child Care Workforce Standards Board with specific designated members and requires the Board to adopt statewide rules and standards establishing minimum child care employment standards relating to compensation, health and safety, and other working conditions. Excludes the licensing of child care facilities from the Board's purview.</p> <p>2/9: Second Substitute Bill Amendments: Modifies the purpose and scope of the Child Care Workforce Standards Board by requiring the Board to make recommendations on minimum compensation and employment standards, rather than adopting enforceable minimum compensation and employment standards. Removes the provisions pertaining to: setting minimum standards and conducting rulemaking; application and scope of rules; training and certifying worker organizations to conduct training; notifications to workers; anti-retaliation protections; and administrative enforcement and the private right of</p>	<p>Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 2/6; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute in House Appropriations on 2/9; Passed House Floor as second substitute bill on 2/13 on a 63-29 vote</p> <p>Public hearing held in Senate Labor & Commerce on 2/20; Executive Action (vote) taken in Senate Labor & Commerce on 2/23; Passed Senate Floor with amendments on 3/4 on a 28-19 vote</p> <p>House concurred in Senate amendments on 3/9 on a 68-27 vote; To the Governor for Signature</p>

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action. Requires the Board to meet quarterly and make recommendations to the Department of Labor and Industries that will enhance and improve the employment standards of child care workers. Requires the Board to prepare a series of reports with findings and recommendations, and make those reports publicly available on the Department of Labor and Industries' website. Requires the Board, when making recommendations, to prioritize child care worker staffing, recruitment, retention, and staffing ratios. Allows the Board to investigate the following: the adequacy of wage rates and compensation policies to ensure the provision of quality services and sufficient levels of recruitment and retention of child care employees; the adequacy of the role of child care employees in making decisions affecting their wages and working conditions; the adequacy and enforcement of training requirements for child care employees; the impact of systemic racism and economic injustice on child care employees and the adequacy of efforts to alleviate such impact through the development of career paths through partnerships between labor and management and other methods; and the adequacy of payment practices and policies of the state as such practices and policies relate to the reimbursement of child care employers for the provision of services under a child care program. Additionally exempts private K-12 schools that operate licensed child care programs from the definition of "child care employer,"

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exempting those employers from the Board's scope and recommendations.

3/4 floor amendments: Allows the board to investigate the adequacy and costs to workers of background checks, fingerprinting, and a variety of safety requirements. Requires the board to allow a minority report to be included with any of its reports upon request of a board member and requires the reports to include a breakdown of the vote on each recommendation. Specifies that the board's consideration of wage rate and benefit data, wage rate and benefits statements, and collective bargaining agreements includes similarly situated child care occupations on the west coast of the US.

[2SHB 2105](#)

Ortiz-Self

Immigrant
worker
protection

Requiring Washington employers to provide notice to workers in the event of a form I-9 audit and provide additional protections and support for workers and employers. Includes provisions related to clarifying employers' rights to restrict access to nonpublic areas in a place of labor as well as prohibiting a person acting on behalf of an employer from providing voluntary consent to federal agencies to access, review or obtain the employer's records without a subpoena or judicial warrant.

Public hearing held in House Labor & Workplace Standards on 1/16; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute bill in House Labor & Workplace Standards on 1/23; Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 2/5; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of second substitute in House Appropriations on 2/7; Passed House Floor as second substitute bill on 2/13 on a 56-38 vote

1/23 amendments: Makes a variety of changes and clarifications in definitions,

Executive Action (vote) taken in Senate Labor & Commerce on 2/20; Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/26; Executive Action (vote)

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Attorney General responsibilities, notices of inspection, inspections result notices, searches, anti-retaliation protections, enforcement, and removal of the emergency clause. Makes the provisions directing the Attorney General to develop and publish a poster, model notice, and guidance and conduct outreach take effect 90 days after the adjournment of session, and makes the employer posting and notice requirements and enforcement provisions take effect 10/1/26.

taken with adoption of amendments in Senate Ways & Means on 3/2; Passed Senate Floor on 3/5 on a 27-21 vote

House Concurred in Senate amendments on 3/11 on a 58-38 vote; To the Governor for Signature

2/9 Second Substitute Bill Amendments: Directs employers to post the required poster in one place instead of multiple places in each instance, and with respect to notice of inspection results sent to an affected worker further directs employers regarding meeting to correct any identified deficiencies in the worker's records and to redact other workers' personal information as specified from documents provided to affected worker(s). Also adds a null and void clause making the bill null and void unless funding is provided in the operating budget.

3/2 amendments: Changes notification requirements under the bill's provision from 72 hours to 120 hours, and changes requirements of the court in ordering statutory damages, awarding damages for violations, and considering specified factors when determining the amount of statutory damages to award.

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Concerning maximum group sizes and staff-to-child ratios for child care centers to account for meal and rest breaks for center staff. Also requires DCYF to waive the early learning program preservice requirement to complete a department-provided orientation for any individual who has previously completed the applicable orientation. It would also adjust maximum group size and staff-to-child ratios for child care centers to account for staff meal- and rest-breaks.

1/23 amendments: Adds criteria that must be met in order for an individual to receive a waiver of the requirement to complete DCYF provided preservice orientation, which are that: (1) it has been less than five years since the person previously completed the orientation; (2) the orientation content and licensing process have not substantially changed since the date of completion; and (3) the individual has not had a break in service.

2/16 Floor Amendments: Requires that child care and early learning licensing standards expressly require that the premises of all licensed settings are absent of high-potency synthetic opioid, fentanyl residue, and drug paraphernalia. Also requires, as part of minimum licensing requirements for child care and preschool programs, that requirements include a zero tolerance policy for imminent physical harm, defined as the presence of high-potency synthetic

Public hearing held in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/14; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/23; Passed House Floor with amendments on 2/16 on a 95-1 vote

Public hearing held in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 2/19; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of striking amendment in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 2/25; Passed Senate Floor on 3/3 on a 49-0 vote

House Concurred in Senate amendments on 3/9 on a 67-28 vote; To the Governor for Signature

opioids or manufacturing equipment in the licensed facility or program space.

2/25 striking amendment: Cross-references definitions in existing state law for “high-potency synthetic opioids” and “drug paraphernalia,” removes reference to “fentanyl residue,” and specifies “drug” manufacturing equipment. Also directs DCYF to issue an immediate summary suspension to a child care licensee when the zero tolerance policy for imminent physical harm is violated. Adds that nothing in Section 1 creates a private right of action.

[EHB 2317](#)

Eslick

Early learning program licensing requirements

Adjusting early learning program licensing requirements adding ECEAP and Head Start programs located in a public school building or on public school property to the existing definition of “agency.”

2/11 Floor amendments: Modifies the amendatory exemption to the definition of “agency” subject to DCYF licensure for certain ECEAP and Hed Start classrooms to remove reference to part-day programs, include programs operated at community or technical colleges, and refer to programs operating on public school “premises” rather than “property.”

Public hearing held in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/16; Executive Action (vote) taken in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/23; Passed House Floor with amendments on 2/11 on a 96-0 vote

Public hearing held in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 2/18; Executive Action (vote) taken in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 2/24; Passed Senate Floor on 3/4 on a 48-0 vote

Scheduled for Governor’s signature on 3/14

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<p>2SHB 2429</p> <p>Companion: SB 6224</p>	<p>Callan</p>	<p>Youth behavioral health</p>	<p>Extends the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Workgroup’s lifecycle by two years and establishes the Washington Thriving strategic plan as the state’s plan to create a system of care for prenatal to 25 behavioral health. It also looks to codify several recommendations from the Washington Thriving work, including establishing a Behavioral Health Leadership Council consisting of state agencies.</p> <p>1/30 amendments: Modifies the participation of individuals representing tribal governments or federally recognized Indian tribes on the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Workgroup and the leadership council.</p> <p>2/7 Second Substitute Amendments: Specifies that the Executive Coordination Officer for the Children and Youth System of Care created in the underlying bill is subject to the availability of private or other non-state funding being available and used for that purpose. Also modifies the participation of the Washington State Office of Equity in monitoring the equity impacts of implementing the Strategic Plan to specify that the Executive Coordination Officer for the Children and Youth System of Care consult with the Office of Equity, instead of coordinate.</p> <p>2/24 striking amendment: Replaces the provision provided by the Governor of Executive Coordination Officer for the</p>	<p>Public hearing held in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/20; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/30; Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 2/5; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of second substitute bill in House Appropriations on 2/7; Passed House Floor as second substitute bill on 2/13 on a 94-0 vote</p> <p>Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of striking amendment in Senate Human Services on 2/24; Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/26; Executive Action (vote) taken in Senate Ways & Means on 3/2; Passed Senate Floor on 3/3 on a 49-0 vote</p> <p>House Concurred in Senate amendments on 3/9 on a 95-0 vote; To the Governor for Signature</p>
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Children and Youth System of Care with the Governor providing executive coordination for the Children and Youth System of Care. Also clarifies that while the Governor may accept private or other nonstate funding for the purposes of certain sections of this act, the legislature may still appropriate funds for this purpose in the future. Adds a member to the leadership council from the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group and makes additional technical changes.

SHB 2594	Reeves	Unhoused children/ education	<p>Directs the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education for qualifying children, as provided to other children and youths. The bill includes language about efforts to ensure students remain in their “school of origin,” including preschool.</p> <p>2/3 amendment: Removes duplicative provisions for OSPI, including provisions where equivalent requirements exist in the McKinney-Vento Act assigned to the Secretary of Education, and adds that OSPI and school district compliance with McKinney-Vento requirements as they existed on 1/1/26 also satisfy equivalent requirements in the bill.</p>	<p>Public hearing held in House Education on 1/27; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of amendment in House Education on 2/3 at 4pm; Passed House Floor as substitute bill on 2/12 on a 94-0 vote</p> <p>Public hearing held in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 2/18; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of amendments in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 2/24; Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/26; Executive Action (vote) taken in Senate Ways & Means on 3/2; Passed Senate Floor on 3/6 on a 48-0 vote</p> <p>House Concurred in Senate amendments on 3/11 on a 95-1 vote; To the Governor for Signature</p>
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2/24 striking amendment: Replaces references to “liaison” or “local liaison” with “school district liaison” for consistency, removes references to the “state coordinator” more broadly and replaces with “the coordinator for education of homeless children and youth established under section 601 of this act, replaces a plural reference to “coordinators” with “coordinator to reflect only one is required at the state level, specifies that OSPI is the agency required to prepare and submit a status report on the education of homeless children and youth, and adds that grant funds are for the purpose of facilitating “services related to” the identification, enrollment, attendance, and success in school of homeless children and youths.

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Bill No.	Prime Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status
ESB 5872 Companion: HB 2159	Wilson, C.	PreK promise account	<p>Establishing the preK promise account. Bill establishes the account for the state to accept the gift from the Ballmer Fund to support ECEAP expansion.</p> <p>2/11 Floor Amendments: Removes the word “eligible” so that expenditures from the PreK Promise Account can support children in ECEAP, which can include children who are allowed to enroll in the program as space is available.</p>	<p>Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 1/19; Executive Action (vote) taken in Senate Ways & means on 2/3; Passed Senate Floor with amendments on 2/11 on a 46-3 vote</p> <p>Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 2/18; Executive Action (vote) taken in Senate Ways & Means on 2/27; Passed House Floor on 3/4 on a 97-0 vote</p> <p>Scheduled for Governor’s signature on 3/14</p>
ESSB 6346 Companion: HB 2724	Pedersen	Tax on millionaires	<p>Establishes a 9.9% tax on individuals who earn more than \$1 million a year.</p> <p>2/9 amendments: Increases the distribution amount for public defense services from 5% to 7% and allocates 10% of the revenues for public defense services to cities and provides an alternate distribution mechanism to counties. Increases the charitable deduction from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Specifies that income excluded from federal AGI, including tribal treaty income, is also exempt from the state tax calculation unless a specific provision in state law requires otherwise. Authorizes a deduction for contributions to a capital construction fund by commercial</p>	<p>Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/6; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute bill in Senate Ways & Means on 2/9; Passed Senate Floor with amendments on 2/16 on a 27-22 vote</p> <p>Public hearing held in House Finance on 2/24; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of amendments in House Finance on 2/27; Passed House Floor with adoption of floor amendments on 3/9 on a 51-46 vote</p>

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fishermen and vessel operators where the amounts reduced federal taxable income. Increases the small business B&O tax credit to exempt approximately the first \$300,000 of business income with a complete phaseout at \$600,000. Specifies that DOR will continue with implementation efforts regardless of litigation. Also adds additional intent language and makes technical clarifications and corrections.

Senate Concurred in House amendments on 3/11 on a 27-21 vote; To the Governor for Signature

2/16 Floor Amendments: Makes a variety of changes and adjustments related to the tax, charitable deductions, pass-through entities, criminal liability, reporting, tax filing, provisions related to spouses or state registered domestic partners, penalty for underpaid tax payments, and makes additional technical corrections and clarifications. Additionally, repeals all of the retail services enacted under ESSB 5814 (2025) except for advertising services, effective 1/1/30.

2/27 amendments: Makes changes to the intent section, provides and defines deduction for gambling losses, provides additional exclusion for nonresidents, adds provisions to comply with federal child support enforcement requirements, changes the revenue distribution to the Local Government Public Defense Funding Stabilization Account, makes a technical correction in the account distribution formula, adds first-class city pension process to types of pension income subject to this act, and revises changes made in

2024 to certain sales and use taxes and B&O taxes. Further, provides sales and use tax exemption for diapers, clarifies the treatment of income received by members of federally recognized Indian tribes secured by treat, Executive Order, or an Act of Congress, creates an advisory group to assist DOR in implementing the income tax program and requires reports by DOR to the legislature in 2026 and 2027, removes the early expiration of the B&O surcharge, and changes the repeal date of the changes to the tax on certain retail sales on services enacted in 2025 from 1/1/30 to 1/1/29.

3/9 floor amendments: Makes changes to the intent section, directs the revenues from the tax to the State General Fund with 5% being transferred to the Fair Start for Kids Account, provides additional deductions, exclusions, and exemptions from the tax and other sales and use and business and occupations taxes, makes revisions to Working Families Tax Credit eligibility, adds clarifications on income, and makes technical corrections.

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Bills That Could Be Necessary to Implement the Budget (NTIB)

Bill No.	Prime Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status
SHB 2689	Gregerson	Working Connections Child Care	<p>Makes statutory changes needed to implement Working Connections Child Care provisions of Governor Ferguson's Supplemental Budget including pausing new applications except for families engaged in the child welfare system beginning 7/1/26, establishing an average monthly caseload cap effective 1/1/27 (from which child welfare engaged families are exempt), allowing new applicants to WCCC to be accepted after 1/1/27 up to the average monthly caseload cap, establishes a prioritization list for admission to WCCC with exceptions for child welfare involved families, and modifies the WCCC rate for child care centers effective 7/1/26 to the 75th percentile of the most recent Market Rate Survey (2024 MRS).</p> <p>Substitute bill passed on 3/4: Makes statutory changes needed to implement WCCC provisions of HB 2289. See Start Early comparison chart with additional detail.</p> <p>3/10 amendments: Makes changes to attendance-based provider reimbursement policy and Market Rate Survey response rate requirements. See March 13th Notes From Olympia for full summary of policy changes.</p>	<p>Public hearing in House Appropriations on 2/26; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute in House Appropriations on 3/2; Passed House Floor as substitute bill on 3/4 on a 53-44 vote</p> <p>Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 3/9; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of amendments in Senate Ways & Means on 3/10; Passed Senate Floor on 3/11 on a 33-16 vote</p> <p>House Concurred in Senate amendments on 3/11 on a 51-45 vote; To the Governor for Signature</p>

<p>ESSB 5998</p> <p>Companion: HB 2289</p>	<p>Robinson</p>	<p>Operating budget supplemental</p>	<p>Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.</p> <p>See Start Early comparison chart with additional detail and amendments.</p>	<p>Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 1/13; Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/23; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of amendments in Senate Ways & Means on 2/25; Passed Senate Floor as substitute bill on 2/27 on a 30-19 vote</p> <p>Conference Committee report approved by the House on 3/12 on a 54-43 vote and by the Senate on a 28-21 vote; To the Governor for Signature</p>
<p>SSB 6003</p> <p>Companion: HB 2295</p>	<p>Trudeau</p>	<p>Capital budget, supplemental</p>	<p>Concerning the capital budget.</p> <p>See Start Early comparison chart with additional detail and amendments.</p>	<p>Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 1/12; Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/24; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of amendments in Senate Ways & Means on 2/26; Passed Senate Floor as substitute bill on 2/27 on a 49-0 vote</p> <p>Passed House Floor as second substitute bill on 3/12 on a 96-0 vote; Senate Concurred in House amendments on 3/12 on a 49-0 vote; To the Governor for Signature</p>

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ESSB 6260	Wellman	Public education	<p>Larger education related bill with provisions related to Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) including tying state-funded TTK enrollment to funding provided in the budget, basing state-funded TTK eligibility at free or reduced lunch or household income at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level, and allowing schools to supplement state-funded TTK with local levy funds, tuition payments or other resources.</p>	<p>Public hearing held in Seante Early Learning & K-12 Education on 1/27; Executive action (vote) taken in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education; Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/19; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute bill in Senate Ways & Means on 3/2; Passed Senate Floor as substitute bill on 3/3 on a 25-24 vote</p>
Companion: HB 2676			<p>3/2 substitute bill: Directs OSPI to establish criteria to prioritize school districts with existing TTK programs and those identified as lacking available early learning programs when developing rules related to the allocation of state funds for TTK. Specifies that rules adopted for TTK must include requirements for authorizing collection of tuition or fees. Finally, specifies that funding for TTK program is limited to the amount specified in the omnibus appropriations act.</p>	<p>Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 3/5; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of amendments in House Appropriations on 3/9; Passed House Floor with amendments on 3/11 on a 50-47 vote</p>
			<p>3/9 amendments: Specifies that OSPI must prioritize TTK funding for a) existing TTK programs that serve low-income students before providing funding for new TTK programs that are located within extreme child care access deserts; and b) students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals or have a household income at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and who do not have access to ECEAP, Head Start, or licensed child care. Requires that OSPI submit an annual report by 6/30 of each year on the planned TTK slot allotment for each upcoming school year, requires the report include specific data for each school</p>	<p>Senate Concurred in House amendments on 3/12 on a 26-23 vote; To the Governor for Signature</p>

district, charter school, or state-tribal education compact school that received funding for a TTK program. Makes additional changes related to running start and alternative learning experience programs.

3/11 amendments: Directs OSPI to prioritize funding for existing programs that serve students who: 1) qualify for free or reduced price meals or have a household income at or below 185% of FPL and lack access to licensed child care; 2) are eligible, but not scheduled for, enrollment in ECEAP or Head Start; 3) are eligible for or receiving special education in accordance with the federal individuals with disabilities education act; or 4) are English learners or multilingual learners. Also requires OSPI to prioritize funding for existing TTK programs serving the specific population listed above before providing funding for new programs located within extreme child care access deserts. Authorizes school districts to charge sliding scale fees for enrollment in a TTK program, except for children eligible for but not placed in ECEAP or Head Start programs or children with disabilities. Requires, beginning 6/30/26 and annually thereafter, OSPI to report to the Office of the Governor and appropriate committee of the legislature on the planned TTK program slot allotment for the upcoming school year. The report must include the following information for each school district, charter school, and state-tribal education compact school that will receive funding for the program during the upcoming school year: (a) The number of program slots funded; (b) The percentage of

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students eligible for free or reduced-price meals during the previous school year; and
(c) Whether the school district, charter school, or state-tribal education compact school is located within, or includes a zip code defined as, an extreme child care access desert as determined by DCYF.

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Bills That Did Not Advance by the Sine Die on 3/12

Bill No.	Prime Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status
HB 1600	Eslick	Family services support fee	Increases the maximum fee counties may impose on marriage licenses from \$15 to \$30 for the purpose of funding family services such as family resource centers.	In House Rules
HB 2038 Companion: SB 5799	Callan	Establishing the youth behavioral health account	Establishes the youth behavioral health account in the state treasury and funds the account through the imposition of a business and occupation additional tax on the operation of social media platforms. Expenditures from the account must be used for behavioral health needs identified by the Washington Thriving Prenatal Through 25 Behavioral Health Strategic Plan and the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Work Group for persons that are prenatal through age 25, the pilot program for telebehavioral health services for school-aged youth administered by the health care authority, and for the Office of the Governor to support prenatal through 25 behavioral health care.	Public hearing held in House Finance on 1/20
HB 2058	Couture	Concerning third-party audits of private entities receiving public moneys	Requiring any private entity that receives public moneys through grants must hire a third-party auditor to conduct an audit of the entity. The bill defines private entity and outlines the required audit components.	Referred to House State Government & Tribal Relations
HB 2099 Companion: SB 5907	Leavitt	ECEAP access/military	Expanding access to the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) for military families. Would amend existing	Public hearing held in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/16; Executive Action (vote)

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			<p>ECEAP eligibility requirements to allow children from military families with incomes above 36 percent of the State Median Income, but at or below the household income for Working Connections Child Care eligibility, to be eligible for ECEAP.</p> <p>1/23 amendments: Adds members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration commissioned corps and the United States Public Health Service commissioned corps to the definition of "military member;" adds the prioritization criteria for available funded slots that are specific to military families to the general list of risk factors currently used for prioritization; and expands the deployment related prioritization criteria to include military member parent deployments within the last 12 months or totaling 19 or more months in the child's lifetime.</p>	<p>taken with adoption of substitute bill in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/23; Referred to House Appropriations</p> <p><i>Note SB 5907 is the vehicle for this issue</i></p>
<p>HB 2100</p> <p>Companion: SB 6093</p>	<p>Scott</p>	<p>Payroll expense tax</p>	<p>Enacting an excise tax on large operating companies on the amount of payroll expenses above the minimum wage threshold of the additional Medicare tax to fund services to benefit Washingtonians and establish the Well Washington fund account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for higher education, health care (especially Medicaid), cash assistance programs, and energy and housing programs.</p> <p>1/22 Proposed Substitute Bill (heard at 1/22 public hearing): Adds additional language</p>	<p>Public hearing held in House Finance on 1/22</p>

			to the intent section; requires that a non-voting member in the employ of the Employment Security Department be added to the board, clarifies the definition of “employer,” and “large operating company”; and adds an emergency clause.	
HB 2159	Bergquist	PreK promise account	Establishing the preK promise account. Bill establishes the account for the state to accept the gift from Ballmer Group to support ECEAP expansion. 1/29 amendments: Clarifies that the expenditures from the PreK Promise Account may be used to support any child enrolled in ECEAP.	Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 1/21; Executive Action (vote) with adoption of substitute in House Appropriations on 1/29; In House Rules <i>Note SB 5872 is the vehicle for this issue</i>
Companion: SB 5872				
HB 2180	Ley	Coaches of youth sports	Concerning mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect by coaches of youth sports organizations. Clarifies the definition of youth sports organization does not include licensed child care center or family home provider.	Referred to House Early Learning & Human Services
HB 2187	Penner	Child care assist./B&O tax	Supporting employers providing child care assistance to employees by establishing a five-year pilot program business and occupation and public utility tax credit.	Referred to House Finance
HB 2282	Bernbaum	Transition to kindergarten	Supporting the implementation of Transition to Kindergarten programs (TTK). Directs OSPI to prioritize TTK funding for programs that did not operate in either the 2024-25 or 2025-26 school years but submitted a notice to implement and administer a program to OSPI prior to June 1, 2025.	Referred to House Appropriations

<p>HB 2289</p> <p>Companion: SB 5998</p>	<p>Ormsby</p>	<p>Operating budget, supplemental</p>	<p>Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.</p> <p>See Start Early comparison chart with additional detail and amendments.</p>	<p>Public hearings held in House Appropriations on 1/12 and 1/14; Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 2/23; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of amendments in House Appropriations on 2/25; Passed House Floor with amendments on 2/28 on a 52-41 vote</p> <p><i>Note ESSB 5998 is the final budget bill</i></p>
<p>HB 2295</p> <p>Companion: SB 6003</p>	<p>Tharinger</p>	<p>Capital budget, supplemental</p>	<p>Concerning the capital budget.</p> <p>See Start Early comparison chart with additional detail and amendments.</p>	<p>Public hearing held in House Capital Budget on 1/15; Public hearing held in House Capital Budget on 2/24; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of amendments in House Capital Budget on 2/26; In House Rules</p> <p><i>Note SSB 6300 is the vehicle</i></p>
<p>HB 2318</p>	<p>Eslick</p>	<p>Early Achievers quality improvement awards</p>	<p>Adjusting the early Achievers quality improvement awards to specify that the awards would apply to programs with populations consisting of a total of at least five percent of enrolled children who are receiving a state subsidy, participating in ECEAP or Head Start.</p>	<p>Public hearing held in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/16; Scheduled for Executive Action (vote) taken in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/23; Referred to House Appropriations</p>
<p>HB 2364</p> <p>Companion:</p>	<p>Gregerson</p>	<p>Poverty reduction task force</p>	<p>Updates the duties, membership, structure and name of the legislative-executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction</p>	<p>Public hearing held in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/20; Executive Action</p>

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SB 6255			Oversight task force.	(vote) taken in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/30; In House Rules
HB 2371	Stonier	Imagination Library program	Transferring the Imagination Library program from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.	Referred to House Education <i>Note SB 5961 is the vehicle for this issue</i>
Companion: SSB 5961				
HB 2438	Bergquist	Early education scholarship	Establishing the Supporting Our Early Education Degree Seekers (SEEDS) scholarship to provide up to 90 credits of tuition-free community or technical college for students enrolled in eligible early childhood education and assistance degrees or programs beginning in the 2027-28 academic year. 2/3 amendments: Allows the Office of Student Financial Assistance to collaborate with a statewide child care resource and referral organization, modifies eligibility requirements, specifies how much of the funds allocated to the GET account can be used for administrative costs, makes allocations yearly instead of one-time, creates the Early Education Scholarship Account in the custody of the State Treasurer, adds a statute of limitations clause, extends the deadline for the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) and State Board for Community and Technical Colleges report to the legislature, and requires WSAC to send notifications to each owner of a tuition unit contract.	Public hearing held in House Postsecondary Education & Workforce on 1/27; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute in House Postsecondary Education & Workforce on 2/3; Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 2/7; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of second substitute bill in House Appropriations on 2/9; In House Rules

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2/9 Second Substitute Bill Amendments:
 Adds to the intent section that replacement of the current funding for the Early Achievers Program and the Early Achievers Grant is an appropriate use of a portion of the surplus from the GET Account. Modifies SEEDS Scholarship eligibility MFI range from 65-150% to 60-150%, with specifications for how the SEEDS Scholarship is applied for students with 61-100% MFI and 101-150% MFI. Eliminates the requirement that the Caseload Forecast Council must estimate the caseload of the SEES Scholarship. Specifies that notifications sent to owners of tuition unit contracts must be sent to owners of current tuition unit contracts. Extends the deadline of the WSAC report to the legislature from 10/18/28 to 10/28/29 and shortens the statute of limitations deadline from 1/1/30 to 7/30/28.

HB 2484 Companion: SSB 5992	Rule	Youth development fund	Creating the youth development fund account to increase access to positive youth development programs.	Referred to House Education <i>Note SB 5992 is the vehicle for this issue</i>
HB 2529 Companion: SSB 5942	Dent	DCYF accountability board	Reconstituting the Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) oversight board as the DCYF accountability board, clarifies authority, streamlines statutory provisions, and updates responsibilities.	Public hearing held in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/28 <i>Note SB 5942 is the vehicle for this issue</i>

HB 2587	Cortes	Nonprofit grant advances	Establishing a pilot program to advance funds to nonprofits to support grant performance.	Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 2/2
Companion: SB 6245			2/2 Proposed Substitute Bill (heard at 2/2 public hearing): Removes references to “advance funding” and replaces with “initial distributions”; requires that the contract to be executed with a nonprofit participating in the pilot program must provide sufficient consideration to the state; directs that initial contributions are only to be used for the provision of goods or services, as stated in the contract; and until 6/30/29, exempts contracts made between Commerce and nonprofits pursuant to the pilot program from the performance-based criteria that make any payment contingent upon completion of the contract.	
HB 2602	Stonier	Data and personal safety	Establishing data and personal safety protections within areas of public accommodation for all Washington residents, including at early learning sites. Provides that other than as required by state or federal law, early learning providers may not collect information or documents regarding immigration or citizenship status of students or their family members or allow an officer or employee of an agency conducting immigration enforcement to enter a nonpublic area of an early learning or child care site for any purpose without being presented with a valid judicial warrant, judicial subpoena or court order.	Referred to House Civil Rights & Judiciary <i>Note SB 5906 is the vehicle for this issue</i>

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HB 2607	Connors	Child care rate regions	Directs DCYF to review and rebase the child care rate regions to include regional adjustments in the child care subsidy base rates to reflect the actual cost of living and economic differences between regions. DCYF is encouraged to designate regions on a more localized basis than on the county level. Further provides that no provider may receive a lower child care subsidy base rate as compared to its prior year as a result of adjustments that reflect updated child care rate regions.	Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 2/2
HB 2672	Couture	State funds/private entities	Requiring certain disclosures to OFM from private entities that receive state funding including employee names and compensation information for those whose total compensation exceeds \$100,000; names of employees who currently or recently held public office in Washington state; board members and their compensation; political contributions in the previous four election cycles; and accounting of how the grant money will be spent. Further directs OFM to maintain a publicly searchable database on its website for all completed disclosure forms.	Referred to House Technology, Economic Development & Veterans
HB 2724	Fitzgibbon	Tax on millionaires	Establishes a 9.9% tax on individuals who earn more than \$1 million a year.	Referred to House Finance
Companion: SB 6346				<i>Note SB 6346 is the vehicle for this issue</i>
HJM 4014	Graham	Fraud investigation	Requesting a federal investigation of allegations of fraud in certain taxpayer funded programs.	Referred to State Government & Tribal Relations

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ESSB 5500 Companion: HB 1350	Alvarado	Child care reimbursement rates.	Transitions reimbursement rates for the Working Connections Child Care program to reflect the Cost of Quality Care. 1/28 amendment: Provides a definition of “cost of quality child care” as the model developed in consultation with the early educator design team.	Substitute bill passed by Senate on 1/28 on a 30-19 vote Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 2/18; Executive Action (vote) taken in House Appropriations on 2/27; In House Rules
SB 5852 Companion: HB 2105	Saldaña	Immigrant worker protection	Requiring Washington employers to provide notice to workers in the event of a form I-9 audit and provide additional protections and support for workers and employers. Includes provisions related to clarifying employers’ rights to restrict access to nonpublic areas in a place of labor as well as prohibiting a person acting on behalf of an employer from providing voluntary consent to federal agencies to access, review or obtain the employer’s records without a subpoena or judicial warrant. 1/30 amendments: Makes a variety of changes and revisions to requirements and definitions, adds a compliance safe harbor for employers, removes prohibition on an employer providing voluntary consent to a federal agency without a subpoena or judicial warrant, modifies anti-retaliation protections by clarifying that an employer may take actions required by state or federal law, revises AGO enforcement, revises the private right of action, modifies requirements for AGO to develop materials, revises poster requirements, and delays the effective date for certain provisions to 10/1/26.	Public hearing held in Senate Labor & Commerce on 1/20; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute in Senate Labor & Commerce on 1/30; Referred to Senate Ways & Means <i>Note HB 2105 is the vehicle for this issue</i>

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SB 5867	Muzzall	Mobile pregnancy application	Partnering with a mobile pregnancy application to promote awareness of the government maternal and infant health programs and information available to prenatal, pregnant, and postpartum women who are enrolled in Medicaid.	Referred to Senate Health & Long-Term Care
ESSB 5906	Hansen	Data and personal safety	<p>Establishing data and personal safety protections within areas of public accommodation for all Washington residents. Provides that other than as required by state or federal law, early learning providers may not collect information or documents regarding immigration or citizenship status of students or their family members or allow an officer or employee of an agency conducting immigration enforcement to enter a nonpublic area of an early learning or child care site for any purpose without being presented with a valid judicial warrant, judicial subpoena or court order. Provides further detail.</p> <p>1/29 amendments: Adds requirements for early learning providers and school districts to contact collective bargaining representatives if the worker is subject to immigration enforcement action on site. Further removes specific directions to health care facilities and adult family homes for designating areas as nonpublic, removes references to judicial subpoenas, applies requirements for engaging with immigration enforcement officers to adult family homes, and redefines terms.</p> <p>2/12 Floor Amendments: Directs the</p>	<p>Public hearing in Senate Law & Justice on 1/20; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute in Senate Law & Justice on 1/29; Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/5; Executive Action (vote) taken in Senate Ways & Means on 2/9; Passed Senate Floor with amendments on 2/12 on a 30-19 vote</p> <p>Public hearing held in House Civil Rights & Judiciary on 2/20; Action (vote) taken with adoption of amendments in House Civil Rights & Judiciary on 2/25; Senate Floor</p>

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attorney general to publish a model policy limiting assistance with immigration enforcement at early learning provider settings and facilities consistent with federal and state law and encourages early learning providers to adopt the model policy. Additionally, health care facilities and adult family homes to contact unionized workers' collective bargaining representatives if the workers become subject to immigration enforcement actions. Requires higher education institutions to contact unionized faculty members' and employees' collective bargaining representatives if they become subject to immigration enforcement actions. Finally, references health care facility workers and adult family home workers rather than personnel, employees, and/or staff, and makes technical corrections.

2/25 amendment: Defines "health care facility," adds requirements for health care facilities on responding to requests relating to immigration enforcement, requires health care facilities other than adult family homes to designate certain areas as nonpublic, and for adult family homes to designate the entire residential home nonpublic. Requires all policies to be consistent with the Attorney General's model policies and guidance as well as state and federal privacy laws. Requires health care facilities to adopt policies no later than 90 days after the effective date of the bill and to train staff and volunteers on the policies. Provides that health care

			facilities are not prevented from permitting entry to a patient who receives care in a nonpublic are, and provides that health care facilities or their workers are not limited in the right to consult with counsel or a collective bargaining representative, or to challenge the validity of a judicial warrant or court order.	
SB 5907 Companion: HB 2099	Nobles	ECEAP access/military	Expanding access to the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) for military families. Would amend existing ECEAP eligibility requirements to allow children from military families with incomes above 36 percent of the State Median Income but at or below the household income for Working Connections Child Care eligibility to be eligible for ECEAP.	Public hearing held in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 1/20; Executive Action (vote) taken in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 1/29; Senate Floor
SB 5926	Wellman	Child care providers/Public Records Act	Expanding the public records exemption for personal information of family home child care providers to all licensed or certified child care providers.	Referred to Senate Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections
SB 5942 Companion: HB 2529	Wilson, C.	DCYF accountability board	Reconstituting the Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) oversight board as the DCYF accountability board, clarifies authority, streamlines statutory provisions, and updates responsibilities. 1/27 amendment: Dissolves the DCYF Oversight Board (DCYFOB) and establishes the DCYF Accountability Board in the Office of the Governor instead of the Office of Financial Management.	Public hearing held in Senate Human Services on 1/14; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute in Senate Human Services on 1/27; In Senate Rules

SSB 5961	Wilson, C.	Imagination library program	Transferring the imagination library program from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).	Public hearing held in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 1/15; Executive action (vote) taken in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 1/21; Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/2; Executive Action (vote) taken in Senate Ways & Means on 2/9; Passed Senate Floor as substitute bill on 2/16 on a 32-17 vote
Companion: HB 2371			1/21 amendment: Substitute bill amends the title and adds a new section directing OSPI, subject to appropriation, to contract with a nonprofit entity experienced in the provision of promoting early literacy for children through pediatric office visits (the Reach Out and Read Program).	Referred to House Education
SSB 5992	Krishnadasan	Youth development fund	Creating the youth development fund account to increase access to positive youth development programs. 2/3 amendments: Adds intent language recognizing the importance of and intends to have tribes operate their own youth development and prevention efforts, specifies that federally recognized Indian tribes whose traditional lands and territories included parts of Washington are eligible for grants, adds American Indian and Alaska Native students as a prioritized group for receiving expenditures from the account, and directs the Office of Native Education within OSPI to engage in consultation with federally recognized tribes.	Public hearing held in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 1/21; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 2/3; Passed Senate Floor on 2/11 on a 30-18 vote Referred to House Education
SB 6020	Christian	DCYF oversight board	Changing the name of the DCYF oversight board to the DCYF social club.	Referred to Senate Human Services

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SB 6047	Trudeau	State capital projects	<p>Concerning the statutory guidelines for the administration of state capital projects, including Early Learning Facilities.</p> <p>2/3 amendments: Removes provision prohibiting governor from submitting time lapsed reappropriations to the legislature and instead requires submittals to include an explanation as to why funds were not timely obligated or spent. Additionally makes technical changes to further define project predesign requirements.</p>	Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 1/19; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute in Senate Ways & Means on 2/3; Senate Floor
SB 6078	Slatter	Child care provider supports	<p>Provides that DCYF may, within existing resources, develop and publicize an online child care license resource guide for individuals interested in obtaining a child care license when they submit a permit application to a city or county. Also requires cities or counties to notify applicants for child care licenses of the availability of DCYF prelicensing supports.</p>	Public hearing held in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 1/22; Action (vote) taken in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 2/3; Senate Floor
SB 6089	Slatter	Education data/P20W system	<p>Increasing coordination and alignment throughout the P20W system including early learning, K-12 education, postsecondary education and career pathways, and workforce.</p> <p>2/3 amendments: Adds intent language that the state and the philanthropic community will work together with relevant stakeholders from the early learning, K-12 education, post-secondary education and workforce communities. Adds that nothing requires state funding be provided to the P20W public-private partnership account. Clarifies that the advisory committee will develop and</p>	Public hearing held in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 1/22; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 2/3; Senate Floor

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approve the recommendations in the final report submitted to the legislature, and that the contracted nonprofit organization shall not have any rulemaking or policy-making authority. Directs OFM through the Education Data Center to contract with a nonprofit organization in creating a public-facing P20W data dashboard. Specifies that the data dashboard must, to the extent possible, incorporate or reference the relevant work already under way at state agencies and any existing state data or data dashboards available. Adds that the data dashboard must incorporate safeguards to protect confidential student information.

SB 6179	Dozier	Child care subsidy rates	Aligning child care subsidy rates in Franklin county with Benton and Walla Walla counties.	Referred to Senate Human Services
SB 6206	Dhingra	First responders/child care	<p>Directs DCYF, subject to funds appropriated, to provide funds to at least four local jurisdictions to provide incentive payments to licensed or certified child care providers who care for children of first responders. Incentive payments must be prioritized for licensed or certified child care providers that offer child care during nonstandard work hours, on short notice, and when a child has an illness.</p> <p>2/4 amendments: Includes incentive payments for providers who care for children of first responders within the definition of “criminal justice purposes” for the 0.1% sales and use tax for criminal justice purposes enacted in 2025. Adds that first responders include both paid and</p>	Public hearing held in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 1/29; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 2/4; Referred to Ways & Means

			volunteer first responders and specifies definition of “local jurisdiction.”	
SB 6212	Nobles	Children benefit pilot program	Creating a families with children benefit pilot program to evaluate the feasibility and impacts of a state-funded universal child benefit. The pilot program will provide the benefit to 1,000 randomly selected families whose children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.	Public hearing in Senate Human Services on 2/2
SB 6215	Hansen	Fraud prevention/auditor	<p>Directs the Washington state auditor to develop a program like the United States Government Accountability Office's "high-risk" list and to report to the Legislature annually on risk across state agencies, focusing on identifying program characteristics associated with elevated risk, assessing the effectiveness of existing internal controls, and recommending improvements that support ongoing risk mitigation.</p> <p>2/3 amendments: Removes provisions directing state auditor to prepare an inventory of state programs subject to audit and to create an annual high-risk list of state programs, function, or activities. Instead, directs the Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee (JLARK) to review auditing, accountability, and risk management practices across state agencies and report finding and recommendations to the legislature by 9/1/27.</p>	Public hearing held in Senate State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections on 1/30; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute in Senate State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections on 2/3; Referred to Senate Ways & Means

SB 6218	Dhingra	State-federal payments	Directing the withholding of state payments to the federal government if federal funding is withheld due to the existence of a valid Washington state law.	Referred to Senate Ways & Means
SB 6224 Companion: HB 2429	Wilson, C.	Youth behavioral health	Extends the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Workgroup's lifecycle by two years and establishes the Washington Thriving strategic plan as the state's plan to create a system of care for prenatal to 25 behavioral health. It also looks to codify several recommendations from the Washington Thriving work, including establishing a Behavioral Health Leadership Council consisting of state agencies.	Public hearing held in Senate Human Services on 1/28; Executive Action (vote) taken in Senate Human Services on 2/4; Referred to Senate Ways & Means <i>Note HB 2429 is the vehicle for this issue</i>
SB 6245 Companion: HB 2587	Wilson, C.	Nonprofit grant advances	Establishing a pilot program to advance funds to nonprofits to support grant performance.	Referred to State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections
SB 6254	Braun	Agency rules AI analysis	Directs state agencies to use artificial intelligence to analyze all agency rules and guiding documents to identify alignment with requirements in statute, redundancies, comparison to nearby states, and streamlining recommendations. Further directs agencies to eliminate any rules or requirements based on the artificial intelligence's analysis of duplicative or conflicting language and regulations.	Referred to State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections
SB 6315	Shewmake	Disaggregated data	Requires state agencies to collect and publish disaggregated data to inform state-funded programs, services, and activities.	Referred to Senate State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections

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SB 6344	Christian	DCYF office of fraud & acct.	Establishes an office of fraud and accountability within DCYF for the purpose of detection, investigation, and prosecution of any act prohibited or declared to be unlawful in the programs administered by the department.	Referred to Human Services
SSB 6351	Cortes	School tax exemptions	Increasing fiscal resources for students and children by providing targeted sales tax exemptions for schools and certain before-and-after school care programs and arts and cultural classes.	Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/19; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute bill in Senate Ways & Means on 3/2; Passed Senate Floor as substitute bill on 3/3 on a 49-0 vote Referred to House Finance
SB 6353	Robinson	Working Connections Child Care	Relates to Working Connections Child Care including maintaining income eligibility at 60% of State Median Income, removing increasing eligibility provided in the out-years through the Fair Start for Kids Act, changes the attendance policy for child care centers beginning 10/1/26, and signals a change for all providers beginning 7/1/27. Further signals a rebasing of all child care provider rates to the 75th percentile of market rate as of 7/1/27. Child care centers and family child care homes would continue to be paid at the 85th percentile of the market rate for the 2026-27 fiscal year. Additionally, makes references to the child care cost methodology statute Washington State RCW 43.216.829 to align with ESSB	Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/19; Executive Action (vote) taken in Senate Ways & Means on 3/2; In Senate Rules <i>Note SHB 2689 is the vehicle for this issue</i>

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5500. Also specifies that beginning 7/1/26 providers may not receive a child care subsidy rate that is different than the rate for the subsidy region in which the provider is located. This impacts four counties – Benton, Clark, Walla Walla, and Whitman. Specifies the scope of Family Child Care bargaining (See the bill for a specific list). Repeals authority for prospective payments, and contains an emergency clause which would make the act take effect upon the Governor's signature.

3/2 substitute bill: Makes statutory changes needed to implement WCCC provisions of ESSB 5998. **See Start Early [comparison chart](#)** with additional detail.

For information on public hearings, specific bills or other legislative information, please visit <https://leg.wa.gov>. For information on bill signings by the Governor, please visit <https://governor.wa.gov/official-actions/bill-actions>.