

## Weekly Legislative Update: **Early Care and Education**

Issue Chair: Karen Tvedt  
Contact: [ktvedt@lwvwa.org](mailto:ktvedt@lwvwa.org)

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Good news this week...several early care and education bills passed the Senate or House (their houses of origin) and are being referred to the other chamber where the process starts all over. This includes [SB 5225](#) to increase access to child care subsidies (Working Connections Child Care or WCCC); [HB 1106](#) which would extend unemployment insurance to individuals who voluntarily leave a job due to lack of child care; and [HB 1525](#) which makes WCCC available for students enrolled in state registered apprenticeship programs.

Two bills we support still need to be passed including [SB 5316](#) regarding background checks and licensing fees. **You can help move [SB 5316](#) by contacting your legislator to ask them to get this bill to the Senate floor for approval.** You can do this by going to the bill page and clicking on the green “Comment on this Bill” button. This button will take you to a page that verifies your legislative district and includes a pop-up box with the names of your legislators. Step 2 asks for your contact information and Step 3 allows you to indicate your position on the bill and provide comments.

[HB 1550](#) is shown as being out of Rules and “folks in the know” expect it will move to the House floor for a vote before the cut-off date.

Finally, one bill is scheduled for committee hearing this week: [HB 1199](#) which would prohibit unreasonably restricting or limiting the use of a unit as a licensed family child care home or center. **This bill is scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Law & Justice Committee on March 9 at 8:00 am. You can sign-in PRO [here](#).**

### How You Can Be Involved

- If you're interested in a particular bill, use the links above to go to the bill page. These pages include staff summaries and reports including who testified pro versus con on the bill. There is also information about how to access videos of hearings that have been held.
- Contact Karen Tvedt, [ktvedt@lwvwa.org](mailto:ktvedt@lwvwa.org) if you have questions.