

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

Issue Team Chair: Karen Tvedt

Contact: ktvedt@lwvwa.org

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Bills We Support

The bills below have passed the House and Senate, and while some have minor amendments to be negotiated, they appear to be on their way to the Governor for signature.

SB 5774 Increasing the capacity to conduct timely fingerprint-based background checks for prospective child care employees and other programs. To increase timeliness in processing background checks, this bill requires the department to maintain the capacity to do fingerprints in its early learning and child welfare offices for purposes of State Patrol and FBI background checks. Substitute specifies location priorities and limits staff support per office. ***Passed the House on Feb. 28 (as amended by policy committee).***

SB 5793 Relating to paid sick leave. Substitute bill expands the definition of “family member” to allow employees to use paid sick leave for the care of additional persons as defined. Allows an employee to use paid sick leave when employee’s child’s school or place of care has been closed due to a public emergency (no longer includes weather-related closures). ***Passed and signed by the Senate president and House speaker and is going to the Governor for signature.***

HB 1916 Concerning funding for the early support for the infants and toddlers program. Child is counted as receiving early intervention services if services are provided within the month. Substitute bill states bill is void unless funds are provided in the budget. ***Passed and signed by House speaker and Senate president and is going to the Governor for signature.***

HB 1945 Streamlining and enhancing program access for persons eligible for food assistance. Those eligible for or receiving basic food benefits also meet the income eligibility requirements for Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) and have categorical eligibility for ECEAP (state pre-K). This bill intends to reduce barriers and make it easier for families who are eligible for food assistance to access quality, affordable child care and early learning services. Substitute bill adjusts effective dates and eligibility. ***Passed by Senate on Feb. 27 (as amended in policy committee).***

HB 2111 Clarifying requirements for subsidized child care. Companion to SB 5941. Technical bill that reorganizes and updates Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) statutes. ***Passed and signed by House speaker and Senate president and is going to the Governor for signature.***

HB 2124 Supporting and expanding access to child care and early learning programs.

Participation in ECEAP, Birth-to-Three ECEAP, Head Start or Early Head Start is an approved activity when determining eligibility for Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) assistance. Substitute bill makes it easier for certified child care, Head Start and Early Head Start workers to get help paying for child care for their own children. ***Passed Senate on Feb. 28 (as amended in policy committee).***

HB 2195 Strengthening the early learning facilities grant and loan program by revising criteria and providing resources to the early learning facilities development account. ***Passed Senate on Mar. 1 (as amended in Ways & Means).***

Bills We Are Watching

No bills at this time.

Bills We Oppose

No bills at this time.

How You Can Be Involved

- If you are interested in a particular bill, use the links above to go to the webpage for that bill. 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.
- Read and take action through the [LWVWA Legislative Action Newsletter](#), distributed each Sunday during the legislative session.
- You may also express your opinion on legislation with the LWVWA issue chairs. We will take your perspectives under consideration as we determine our support for legislation and prepare testimony. Please direct questions or comments to [Karen Tvedt](#), Early Care and Education Issue Chair.