

House Bill 3106

Sponsored by Representative WILSON

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Modifies requirements for participation as preschool provider in preschool program administered by Early Learning Division.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the preschool program administered by the Early Learning Division; amending ORS
3 329.172.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 329.172 is amended to read:

6 329.172. (1) The Early Learning Division shall administer a preschool program as provided by
7 this section. The preschool program shall expand preschool options available to the children of this
8 state.

9 (2) For the purpose of expanding preschool options, Early Learning Hubs shall coordinate the
10 providers of preschool programs under this section. The Early Learning Hubs shall apply for state
11 funding, coordinate local planning and enter into contracts with preschool providers.

12 (3) A preschool provider that meets the requirements of this subsection may apply to participate
13 in the preschool program described in this section. The preschool provider:

14 (a) Must be establishing a new preschool program or expanding an existing preschool program.

15 (b) Must meet or exceed the requirements of subsection (4) of this section.

16 (c) May be a Head Start program, an Oregon prekindergarten program, a child care provider,
17 a relief nursery, a private preschool, a public school, a public charter school, an education service
18 district or a community-based organization that provides a preschool program.

19 (4) A preschool provider may participate in the preschool program described in this section if
20 the provider's preschool program:

21 (a) Provides, at a minimum, the annual number of instructional hours required for full-day
22 kindergarten.

23 (b) Takes into consideration the scheduling needs of families who need full-time child care.

24 (c) Serves children who are:

25 (A) At least three years of age but not older than five years of age, as determined by the date
26 used to determine kindergarten eligibility; and

27 (B) Members of families whose incomes, at the time of enrollment, are [*at or below 200 percent*
28 *of the federal poverty guidelines*.]:

29 (i) **At or above 130 percent of the federal poverty guidelines but not more than 200 per-**
30 **cent of the federal poverty guidelines; or**

31 (ii) **Below 130 percent of the federal poverty guidelines if the Early Learning Division,**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **based on rules adopted by the Early Learning Council, determines that other preschool pro-**
 2 **viders that serve the same geographic location and that typically serve children who are**
 3 **members of families whose incomes are below 130 percent of the federal poverty guidelines**
 4 **are at capacity.**

5 (d) Provides continuity from infant and toddler services to early elementary grades.

6 (e) Demonstrates quality through meeting standards, including:

7 (A) Attaining one of the top two ratings of the quality rating and improvement system for early
 8 childhood programs.

9 (B) Adopting culturally responsive teaching methods and practices.

10 (C) Providing a high quality, culturally responsive family engagement environment that supports
 11 parents as partners in a child's learning and development.

12 (D) Providing high quality, culturally responsive curricula, assessments and professional devel-
 13 opment that are linked to one another and to the state's comprehensive early learning standards.

14 (E) Providing highly trained lead preschool teachers who have at least a bachelor's degree in
 15 early childhood education or a field related to early childhood education. The requirements of this
 16 subparagraph may be satisfied by lead preschool teachers who do not have a bachelor's degree but
 17 who have submitted a plan to attain a bachelor's degree and are demonstrating progress on that
 18 plan.

19 (F) Providing lead preschool teachers with a salary that meets the minimum salary requirements
 20 established by the Early Learning Council.

21 (G) Providing at least one assistant in each classroom who provides support for academic in-
 22 struction and who meets the state's personnel qualification requirements of one of the top two tiers
 23 for the quality rating and improvement system for early childhood programs.

24 (H) Providing additional health and child development supports for children and families, such
 25 as screening, referrals and coordination with health care providers.

26 (f) Incorporates best practices in outreach, enrollment and programming for diverse cultural and
 27 linguistic populations and children who have been historically underserved in preschool programs.

28 (g) Works in collaboration with community programs to ensure that families have knowledge of,
 29 and are connected to, community resources and supports to meet the needs of children and families
 30 served by the preschool program.

31 (h) Participates in an ongoing monitoring and program evaluation system that is used for con-
 32 tinuous program improvement.

33 (5)(a) While any moneys received under a contract entered into as provided by this section must
 34 be used to serve children described in subsection (4)(c) of this section, nothing in subsection (4)(c)
 35 of this section prevents a preschool provider from serving additional children, including children
 36 who:

37 (A) Pay tuition for the preschool program and whose family incomes at the time of enrollment
 38 exceeds 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

39 (B) Are funded by the Oregon prekindergarten program, a Head Start program or another source
 40 of funding.

41 (b) If a preschool program serves children described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, moneys
 42 received under a contract as provided by this section may not be used to pay for expenses incurred
 43 for the children described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

44 (6) A preschool program may receive a waiver of any of the requirements described in sub-
 45 section (4) of this section if the waiver:

1 (a) Is for a preschool program that is maintaining progress toward quality;

2 (b) Is anticipated for the first years of the preschool program only; and

3 (c) Is granted for only one year at a time.

4 (7) To assist the Early Learning Division in administering this section, the Early Learning
5 Council shall:

6 (a) Identify resources necessary for the Early Learning Division to develop, support and sustain
7 the implementation of a high quality preschool program, including evaluations, professional devel-
8 opment opportunities, technical assistance, monitoring guidance and administrative assistance.

9 (b) Ensure that pathways and supports are available to teaching staff to increase culturally and
10 linguistically diverse staff to teach and assist in preschool classrooms.

11 (c) Establish minimum salary requirements and target salary requirements for lead preschool
12 teachers as required under subsection (4)(e)(F) of this section. Minimum salary requirements may
13 be differentiated by program type. Target salary requirements shall be comparable to lead
14 kindergarten teacher salaries in public schools.

15 (d) Develop strategies that strive to increase the mean salary for lead preschool teachers in this
16 state.

17 (e) Administer waivers as described in subsection (6) of this section.

18 (8) Each biennium, the Early Learning Division shall submit a report to the Legislative Assem-
19 bly that describes:

20 (a) The number of children served by the preschool program described in this section, including
21 the number of children:

22 (A) Whose family incomes are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines;

23 (B) Whose family incomes are between [100] **130** and 200 percent of the federal poverty guide-
24 lines;

25 **(C) Whose family incomes are below 130 percent of the federal poverty guidelines;**

26 [~~C~~] **(D)** Who pay tuition; and

27 [~~D~~] **(E)** Who are eligible for Head Start programs.

28 (b) The cost to serve each child described in subsection (4)(c) of this section.

29 (c) The level of state support received for implementing the preschool program described in this
30 section.

31 (d) The effectiveness of the preschool program described in this section, including student
32 progress and outcomes.

33 (e) Improvements that have been made to the administration and evaluation of the preschool
34 program to improve the effectiveness of the program.

35 (f) The salary, education levels and turnover rates of lead preschool teachers employed by pre-
36 school providers receiving moneys under this section.

37 (9) The Early Learning Division shall coordinate with the Department of Education and other
38 state agencies in support of the preschool program described in this section.

39 (10) The Early Learning Division shall prescribe the form and timeline for applications to par-
40 ticipate in the preschool program as provided by this section.

41