

A-Engrossed
House Bill 2346

Ordered by the House April 5
Including House Amendments dated April 5

Sponsored by Representative POWER; Representatives HAYDEN, KENY-GUYER, WILLIAMS, WITT (Pre-session filed.)

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.

[Establishes Task Force on Employment-Related Child Care to conduct study on improving access to and availability of subsidies for employment-related child care, to make recommendations for improving communications between Early Learning Division and child care providers, to make recommendations for improving policy coordination between Early Learning Division and Department of Human Services self-sufficiency programs and to develop plan to expand access to employment-related child care opportunities.]

Establishes Task Force on Access to Quality Affordable Child Care to solicit input from underserved populations, to research past and current use of child care subsidies, to study state and federally funded child care and early learning programs, to develop recommendations to improve access to and affordability of child care and to report recommendations to Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2020.

Sunset December 31, [2021] 2020.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to child care; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas high-quality child care should be affordable and accessible for all families; and

4 Whereas a robust, flexible child care system will allow Oregon's families and economy to prosper; and

5
6 Whereas access to child care should be equitable across all ethnic, racial, socioeconomic, geographic and ability statuses; and

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8 Whereas child care is not truly accessible for communities if the child care is not culturally competent, in-language or otherwise does not serve a child well; and

9
10 Whereas all parents want child care that allows their child to thrive; and

11 Whereas child safety, health and development should be fostered in all child care settings; and

12 Whereas child care providers should be well trained, supported and fairly compensated; and

13 Whereas customized training and support should be offered for different types of child care providers; and

14
15 Whereas the state has a role in the recruitment and retainment of a diverse, competent and stable child care provider workforce; and

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17 Whereas training should be based on best practices and the science of child development and early learning; and

18
19 Whereas funding for child care should be adequate, equitable and sustainable, with incentives for quality; and

20
21 Whereas a child care system should offer a variety of options for children from birth to age 13;

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 and

2 Whereas a child care system should be efficient, easy to navigate and transparent for parents
3 and providers; and

4 Whereas a child care system should be accountable and safe; now, therefore,

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

6 **SECTION 1.** (1) As used in this section, “child care” means the compensated care,
7 supervision and guidance, on a regular basis, of a child, unaccompanied by a parent, guardian
8 or custodian in a place other than the child’s home.

9 (2) The Task Force on Access to Quality Affordable Child Care is established.

10 (3) The task force consists of 23 members appointed as follows:

11 (a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from among members of the
12 Senate.

13 (b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among
14 members of the House of Representatives.

15 (c) The Governor shall appoint 21 members as follows:

16 (A) One member who represents the Early Learning Division and who has expertise in
17 the registration and certification of child care providers;

18 (B) One member who represents the Department of Human Services and who has ex-
19 pertise in the implementation of employment-related child care and other child care pro-
20 grams;

21 (C) One member who is an advocate for parents;

22 (D) One member who is an advocate for the rights of children;

23 (E) One member who is an advocate for child care assistance and who has policymaking
24 expertise in the area of subsidized child care;

25 (F) Two members who are advocates for racial justice;

26 (G) One member who represents child care facilities certified under ORS 329A.280;

27 (H) One member who represents family child care providers who operate family child
28 care homes certified under ORS 329A.280;

29 (I) One member who represents family child care providers who operate family child care
30 homes registered under ORS 329A.330;

31 (J) One member who represents child care providers who receive subsidies for child care;

32 (K) One member who represents a Head Start program;

33 (L) Five members who are representatives of parent engagement networks that engage
34 parents of color, immigrant parents or parents from diverse geographic areas in Oregon;

35 (M) Three members from different geographic areas in Oregon who represent Early
36 Learning Hubs, as defined in ORS 417.827, or child care resource and referral services; and

37 (N) One member of the business community.

38 (4) The task force shall:

39 (a) Contract with parent engagement organizations to create parent advisory networks
40 that solicit input from parents of color, immigrant parents or parents from diverse ge-
41 ographic areas in Oregon.

42 (b) Research past and current use and recipients of child care subsidies to better under-
43 stand program assets and barriers.

44 (c) Study all state and federally funded child care and early learning programs in Oregon.
45 The study must include:

1 (A) An accounting of federal and state funds allocated to or spent on child care subsidies,
2 training, quality and administration, including the moneys from Child Care Fund established
3 under ORS 329A.010 and the General Fund, during the 2017-2019 and 2019-2021 biennia.

4 (B) An accounting of the demand for and availability of child care based on by geography,
5 age, race, language spoken in the home and provider type.

6 (C) A list of all state programs that pay for child care, including each program's eligi-
7 bility criteria, copayment requirements, total number of children and families served, pro-
8 vider rates compared to reimbursement rates, administration practices, benefits and hours
9 available to families.

10 (D) An accounting of professional development, accreditation, licensing and recruitment
11 of child care providers by local, state and federal governments or contractors.

12 (E) An accounting of families that lose state child care assistance and the reasons for
13 the loss.

14 (F) An accounting of families who are found to be ineligible for existing child care as-
15 sistance and the reasons for the ineligibility.

16 (G) An accounting of families who stop using current child care assistance and the rea-
17 sons for stopping.

18 (d) The task force shall develop recommendations to expand access to and affordability
19 of quality child care using anticipated federal funds, General Fund moneys and new revenue.
20 The recommendations must include:

21 (A) Provider rates that reflect the true cost of care, including salary and tuition rates
22 to support a quality and stable child care provider workforce, and the cost of robust child
23 development in various child care settings;

24 (B) Eligibility levels and copayments for subsidy recipients;

25 (C) Target numbers of practitioners working in care settings and policies to address
26 provider recruitment, training and retention;

27 (D) Public outreach methods to ensure families are informed of the child care options in
28 their area, provider quality ratings, provider safety issues and subsidies or other financial
29 assistance for which they may qualify;

30 (E) Simplified administrative processes, including making child care assistance easier to
31 access and use for parents and providers, expediting eligibility verification, improving pro-
32 cesses for paying providers and reducing barriers to 12-month eligibility;

33 (F) Program enhancements to meet the needs of families, including expanded child care
34 access to families who are not currently eligible for existing programs due to income or
35 purpose for needed child care;

36 (G) Services for professional child care providers of various types including appropriate
37 training, technical assistance, peer learning, continuing education and professional develop-
38 ment;

39 (H) Services to support friend, family and neighbor child care providers who are enrolled
40 in a state child care assistance or subsidy program; and

41 (I) Policies and actions to recruit additional child care providers and to develop related
42 workforce, career and technical education programs.

43 (5) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the
44 transaction of business.

45 (6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting

1 members of the task force.

2 (7) The task force shall elect two of its voting members to serve as cochairs.

3 (8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
4 ment to become immediately effective.

5 (9) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the cochairs or
6 of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

7 (10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

8 (11) The Early Learning Division and the Department of Human Services shall coordinate
9 to provide staff support to the task force.

10 (12) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task force are nonvoting
11 members of the task force and may act in an advisory capacity only.

12 (13) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not
13 entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task
14 force.

15 (14) Parents who provide input as described in subsection (4)(a) of this section may re-
16 ceive reimbursement for expenses incurred.

17 (15) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
18 the task force in the performance of the task force's duties and, to the extent permitted by
19 laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task
20 force consider necessary to perform their duties.

21 (16) The task force shall report its findings from the study under subsection (4)(c) of this
22 section to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to education no later
23 than December 31, 2019, and its recommendations under subsection (4)(d) of this section to
24 an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to education no later than Sep-
25 tember 15, 2020.

26 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2019 Act is repealed on December 31, 2020.

27 **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated to the Early Learning Division, for the biennium be-
28 ginning July 1, 2019, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$_____ for the purpose of as-
29 sisting the Task Force on Access to Quality Affordable Child Care in carrying out its duties
30 under section 1 of this 2019 Act.

31 **SECTION 4.** This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
32 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect
33 on its passage.

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