

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 3073

Relating to early childhood governance

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Capital Construction Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative McLain

HB 3073 establishes the new Department of Early Learning and Care and makes changes to the Employment Related Day Care (or ERDC) program.

A new Department of Early Learning and Care is established effective January 1, 2023. After that date, the Early Learning Division of the Department of Education will be eliminated as the programs and staff are transferred to the new agency. The Early Learning System director will serve as the agency head. The funding for standing up the new agency is included in HB 5006 and the necessary other budget adjustments will be made in the February 2022 legislative session.

The measure limits copayments in the Employment Related Day Care program to 7% of the child's household income, expands eligibility to noncitizen children, and transfers child care subsidy program from the Department of Human Services to the newly created Department of Early Learning effective July 1, 2023.

The recommended amendment delays the establishment of the new agency by six months and requires the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services to report three months earlier, in September 2021 rather than December 2021, on progress implementing the bill.

The Capital Construction Subcommittee recommends HB 3073 be amended by the –B5 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.