

A-Engrossed House Bill 2726

Ordered by the House March 24
Including House Amendments dated March 24

Sponsored by Representatives MARSH, REYNOLDS, Senator CAMPOS, Representative MCINTIRE; Senator PATTERSON (Presession 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.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Early Learning Division of Department of Education to distribute to specified Early Learning Hub to administer pilot program to coordinate services and other resources provided to low-income pregnant individuals and families with children under five years of age by local and state agencies, human services providers, early learning services providers, health care providers and other community organizations in Jackson and Josephine Counties.

Requires Early Learning Division to report to Legislative Assembly, by September 15, 2024, on outcomes of pilot program and recommendations for expanding program statewide.

Sunset January 2, 2029.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to coordination of resources for low-income individuals; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas in many areas of this state the majority of families with children under the age of five
4 have household incomes of 200 percent or less of the federal poverty guidelines; and

5 Whereas for these families, issues such as support during pregnancy, housing costs, access to
6 quality child care and other basic needs can be overwhelming and, where services and supports are
7 available, the services and supports are often challenging to access and are not well coordinated;
8 and

9 Whereas, given that the issues facing low-income families with small children cross all sectors,
10 including education, health care, mental health care, housing, human services, public safety, the
11 community justice systems and workforce development, a well coordinated system of support for
12 pregnant individuals and families with children under five years old must be developed; now, there-
13 fore,

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

15 **SECTION 1. (1) Southern Oregon Early Learning Services, the Early Learning Hub for**
16 **Jackson and Josephine Counties, shall administer a pilot program, the Southern Oregon**
17 **Early Childhood Support Network, to coordinate resources and supports offered to low-**
18 **income pregnant individuals and families with children under five years of age by:**

19 **(a) Coordinated care organizations serving Jackson and Josephine Counties;**

20 **(b) The systems of care, as defined in ORS 418.976, for Jackson and Josephine Counties;**

21 **(c) Public health home visiting programs;**

22 **(d) The Child Care Resource Network within the Southern Oregon Education Service**

23 **District;**

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 (e) Child care centers;
- 2 (f) Preschools;
- 3 (g) The Family Connection;
- 4 (h) Local school districts;
- 5 (i) Rogue Community College;
- 6 (j) Southern Oregon University;
- 7 (k) The Asante and Providence hospitals and health systems;
- 8 (L) Local federally qualified health centers;
- 9 (m) Southern Oregon Pediatrics;
- 10 (n) Local recovery centers and organizations;
- 11 (o) Community-based organizations;
- 12 (p) Jackson County Community Justice;
- 13 (q) Josephine County Community Justice;
- 14 (r) The Rogue Workforce Partnership;
- 15 (s) Connect Oregon; and
- 16 (t) Other community partners.

17 (2) Using moneys appropriated for the pilot program by section 2 of this 2023 Act,
18 Southern Oregon Early Learning Services shall create the following two funds:

19 (a) The Early Childhood Support Fund, containing \$2,000,000, which will provide moneys
20 to community action agencies and other community-based organizations in Jackson and
21 Josephine Counties to provide financial support to low-income pregnant individuals and
22 families with children up to six years of age for rent and other housing assistance, basic
23 necessities such as food, clothing and diapers, educational opportunities for parents and
24 other needs.

25 (b) The Child Care Workforce Fund, containing \$2,000,000, from which Southern Oregon
26 Early Learning Services will provide grants to providers of early learning services to assist
27 with the development and renovation of child care facilities and other capacity needs and to
28 pay living wage salaries and provide health care coverage to child care providers.

29 (3) No later than September 15, 2024, the Early Learning Division of the Department of
30 Education shall submit a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly re-
31 lated to human services, in the manner provided in ORS 192.245, on the outcomes from the
32 pilot program and recommendations for expanding the pilot program to other areas of this
33 state.

34 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated to the Early Learning Division of the Department of
35 Education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of
36 \$25,000,000 to be distributed to Southern Oregon Early Learning Services to carry out the
37 pilot program described in section 1 of this 2023 Act.

38 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2029.

39 **SECTION 4.** This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
40 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect
41 on its passage.

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