

Early Learning Bill Tracker

LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2025: KEY BILLS ONLY



Please note that legislation changes quickly, so the version [on our website](#) may not represent a bill's latest version as it is finalized the Thursday of each week.

Bill No.	Prime Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status
HB 1022	Connors	Creating a Homes for Heroes program.	Creates the Homes for Heroes pilot program to provide loans to income-eligible workers in targeted occupations for down payment and closing costs for the purchase of a primary residence. Eligible occupations include emergency and first responders as well as care providers, including owners and employees of licensed child care centers, outdoor nature-based care, or licensed family home providers.	Executive action (vote) taken in House Housing on 1/16; Amendment adopted to expand program eligibility to include ECEAP providers; To House Capital Budget
HB 1033	Couture	Authorizing local licensing and regulation of child care providers.	Allows counties to act as the regulatory and licensing authority for child care centers and family home providers, creating a local licensing option for providers.	Referred to House Early Learning & Human Services

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HB 1082 (Companion: SB 5279)	Senn	Concerning qualifications for child care providers.	Allows licensed child care providers until August 1, 2028 to demonstrate experience-based competency as an alternative to comply with current child care licensing rules. Also directs DCYF to convene a stakeholder group to improve early learning and school-age staff qualification requirements and verification processes.	Public hearing held in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/22 at 1:30pm; Scheduled for Executive Session (Vote) on 1/31 at 8am in House Early Learning & Human Services
HB 1128 (Companion: SB 5062)	Fosse	Establishing a child care workforce standards board.	Creates the Washington State Child Care Workforce Standards Board with specific designated members and requires the Board to adopt statewide rules and standards establishing minimum child care employment standards relating to compensation, health and safety, and other working conditions. Excludes the licensing of child care facilities from the Board's purview.	Public hearing held in House Labor & Workforce Standards on 1/15 at 8am; Scheduled for Executive Session (Vote) on 1/31 at 10:30am in House Labor & Workforce Standards
HB 1197 (Companion: SB 5166)	Ormsby	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.	Supplemental operating budget for the 2023-25 biennium.	Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 1/13 at 4pm
HB 1198 (Companion: SB 5167)	Ormsby	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	Operating budget for the 2025-27 biennium.	Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 1/13 at 4pm
HB 1202	Tharinger	Concerning state general obligation bonds and related accounts.	General obligation bonds and related accounts.	Public hearing held in House Capital Budget on 1/16 at 1:30pm

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HB 1212	Alvarado	Concerning the siting of child care centers.	Requires cities and towns to allow child care centers as an outright permitted use in all zones except industrial zones.	Public hearing held in House Local Government on 1/21 at 10:30am; Scheduled for Executive Session (Vote) on 1/24 at 10:30am in House Local Government
HB 1214	Thai	Working Families' Tax Credit.	Expands eligibility for the working families' tax credit to everyone age 18 and older.	Referred to House Finance
HB 1216 (Companion: SB 5195)	Tharinger	Concerning the capital budget.	Capital budget for the 2025-27 biennium.	Public hearing held in House Capital Budget on 1/16 at 1:30pm
HB 1225	Couture	Reforming the budgeting process.	Reforms the Washington state budgeting process through requiring prioritized spending on essential state functions, placing limitations on state spending and revenue proposals, and requiring transparency for every dollar spent within the state budget.	Referred to House Appropriations
HB 1282	Pollet	Improving the well-being of children in child care by enhancing transparency measures and modifying liability insurance requirements.	Requires greater efforts on behalf of DCYF and child care providers to make insurance, licensing, inspection, and Early Achievers information more accessible to parents and guardians of enrolled children.	Scheduled for public hearing in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/28 at 1:30pm

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HB 1307	Caldier	Easing the financial burden on families by removing sales and use tax on diapers and essential child care products.	Exempts certain essential products, including baby diapers, adult incontinence supplies, car seats, baby clothing, and other necessary items for infants and children under the age of five, from sales and use tax. Effective 1/01/2026.	Referred to House Finance
HB 1314 (Companion: SB 5297)	Callan	Concerning the early learning facilities grant and loan program.	Makes changes to the Early Learning Facilities (ELF) program, including establishment of an Emergency Fund; clarifies ECEAP conversion qualifies for ELF; makes Tribal Compact Schools eligible for the ELF Public School District program; and changes the match requirements.	Scheduled for public hearing in House Capital Budget on 1/30 at 1:30pm
HB 1318	Rule	Providing a sales and use tax exemption for children's diapers.	Exempts children's diapers from sales and use tax.	Referred to House Finance
HB 1319	Street	Enacting a wealth tax on the ownership of stocks, bonds, and other financial intangible property.	Creates the Washington state wealth tax in the form of one percent property tax on financial intangible assets, such as stocks and bonds, publicly traded options, and futures contracts in excess of \$100,000,000. Effective 1/01/26.	Referred to House Finance
HB 1320	Street	Business & occupation tax.	Modifies business and occupation tax rates to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians.	Referred to House Finance

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HB 1350	Alvarado	Child care reimbursement rates.	Transitions reimbursement rates for the working connections child care program to reflect the Cost of Quality Care.	Referred to House Appropriations
HB 1351	Bernbaum	ECEAP age requirements.	Adjusts age requirements for accessing the early childhood education and assistance program to allow for enrollment of eligible three-year-olds who turn three at any time during the school year.	Public hearing held in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/22 at 1:30pm; Scheduled for Executive Session (Vote) on 1/31 at 8am in House Early Learning & Human Services
HB 1363	Caldier	Child care licensing.	Modifies licensing requirements for child care and early learning providers, provides that early learning providers may not be required to earn early childhood education certification or equivalent credentials as part of staff qualification requirements, and eliminates the child care providers community-based training pathway.	Referred to House Early Learning & Human Services
HB 1383	Hill	Baby products grant program.	Establishes a grant program through the Department of Commerce for the purchase and distribution of essential baby products like diapers and wipes.	Referred to House Appropriations
HB 1450	Santos	Transition to kindergarten.	Makes adjustments to the Transition to Kindergarten program.	Scheduled for public hearing in House Education on 1/28 at 4:00pm

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HB 1489	Ormsby	Childhood education implementation dates.	Adjusts implementation dates for Working Connections Child Care income eligibility and ECEAP entitlement created through the Fair Start for Kids Act to align with former Governor Inslee's proposed biennial budget.	Referred to House Appropriations
HB 1562	Hunt	Diaper changing stations.	Increases availability of baby diaper changing stations by requiring them in certain public restrooms in public buildings.	Referred to House Local Government
HB 1564	Penner	Child care assistance/B&O tax.	Establishes a business and occupation and public utility tax credit for employers providing child care assistance to employees, beginning on 1/01/26 and expiring on 1/01/38.	Referred to House Finance

Bill No.	Prime Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status
SB 5030	Wilson, C.	Improving access to educational services by reducing barriers to obtaining vital records and allowing alternative forms of documentation.	Waives fees for accessing vital records like birth certificates for parents or guardians eligible for or receiving basic food benefits under the federal or state food assistance programs. Also allows for the acceptance of alternative documents to show a child's age or date of birth for enrollment in early childhood education and assistance programs and public instruction.	Scheduled for Executive Session (Vote) in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 1/29 at 10:30am
SB 5062 (Companion: HB 1128)	Stanford	Establishing a child care workforce standards board.	Creates the Washington State Child Care Workforce Standards Board with specific designated members and requires the Board to adopt statewide rules and standards establishing minimum child care employment standards relating to compensation, health and safety, and other working conditions. Excludes the licensing of child care facilities from the Board's purview.	Public hearing held in Senate Labor & Commerce on 1/20 at 10:30am
SB 5130	Wilson, C.	Eliminating child care licensing fees.	Eliminates child care licensing fees.	Public hearing held in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 1/14; Scheduled for Executive Session (Vote) in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 1/29 at 10:30am

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SB 5145	Gildon	State spending programs review.	Requires every new statutory state spending program to include an expiration date that is no more than 10 years from the effective date of the spending program and must also include a state spending performance statement that includes metrics and data on the program's performance. Also requires the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to review new state spending programs and provide a recommendation to legislative fiscal committees on continuation, modification, sunseting, and termination of programs.	Referred to Senate Ways & Means
SB 5166 (Companion: HB 1197)	Robinson	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.	Supplemental operating budget for the 2023-25 biennium.	Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 1/14 at 4pm
SB 5167 (Companion: HB 1198)	Robinson	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	Operating budget for the 2025-27 biennium.	Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 1/14 at 4pm
SB 5184	Bateman	Concerning minimum parking requirements.	Provides new parameters for municipal minimum parking requirements. Disallows cities and counties from setting minimum parking requirements for certain properties, businesses, and activities, including for child care facilities.	Scheduled for public hearing in Senate Housing on 1/24 at 10:30am; Executive Session (Vote) scheduled for 1/29 at 10:30am in Senate Housing
SB 5195 (Companion: HB 1216)	Trudeau	Concerning the capital budget.	Capital budget for the 2025-27 biennium.	Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 1/13 at 4pm

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SB 5199	Wilson	DCYF Oversight Board compensation.	Provides compensation to members of the Department of Children, Youth and Families oversight board with direct lived experience.	Public hearing held in Senate Human Services on 1/22; Executive Action (Vote) taken in Senate Human Services on 1/22; To Senate Rules
SB 5279 (Companion: HB 1082)	Wilson	Concerning qualifications for child care providers.	Allows licensed child care providers until August 1, 2028 to demonstrate experience-based competency as an alternative to comply with current child care licensing rules. Also directs DCYF to convene a stakeholder group to improve early learning and school-age staff qualification requirements and verification processes.	Referred to Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education
SB 5297 (Companion: HB 1314)	Trudeau	Concerning the early learning facilities grant and loan program.	Makes changes to the Early Learning Facilities (ELF) program, including establishment of an Emergency Fund; clarifies ECEAP conversion qualifies for ELF; makes Tribal Compact Schools eligible for the ELF Public School District program; and changes the match requirements.	Referred to Senate Ways & Means
SB 5310	Braun	Concerning child care subsidy rates.	Requires DCYF to pay the lesser rate, between the rate for families not eligible for subsidy and the subsidy base rate that achieves 75 th percentile of the market, to child care providers. Effective 7/1/25.	Referred to Senate Ways & Means
SB 5341	Fortunato	Concerning children's products sales tax.	Exempts permanently from the sales and use tax purchases of products for children under the age of five.	Referred to Senate Ways & Means

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SB 5416	Gildon	Child care providers.	Limits licensing requirements of child care providers to the minimum needed to protect the health and safety of children and removes requirement that providers accepting subsidy participate in the Early Achievers program.	Referred to Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education
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Start Early Washington updates this document weekly, posted every Thursday during the legislative session. For information on public hearings, specific bills or other legislative information, please visit <https://leg.wa.gov>.