

# 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
<a href="#">HB 1022</a>	Connors	Creating a Homes for Heroes program.	<p>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.</p> <p>1/16: Substitute added paraeducators and ECEAP providers to the list of professions eligible for down payment and closing cost assistance. Also clarifies the eligibility of child care providers.</p>	Executive action (vote) taken in House Housing on 1/16; Public hearing held in House Capital Budget on 2/20

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<a href="#">HB 1033</a>	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.	Public hearing held in House Early Learning & Human Services on 2/12
<a href="#">HB 1082</a>  (Companion: <a href="#">SB 5279</a> )	Eslick	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
<a href="#">HB 1128</a>  (Companion: <a href="#">SB 5062</a> )	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.  2/7: Among other provisions, substitute adjusts the makeup of the board, changed the number of votes required for board action, and made further updates on the number of languages required for written materials.	Public hearing held in House Labor & Workforce Standards on 1/15; Executive Action (Vote) taken with adoption of substitute amendments on 2/7; In House Appropriations

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<a href="#">HB 1197</a> (Companion: <a href="#">SB 5166</a> )	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
<a href="#">HB 1198</a> (Companion: <a href="#">SB 5167</a> )	Ormsby	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	Operating budget for the 2025-27 biennium.	Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 1/13
<a href="#">HB 1202</a>	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
<a href="#">HB 1212</a> (Companion: <a href="#">SB 5509</a> )	Duerr	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.  1/24: Substitute adjusts implementation timeline to 2027 for cities that are required to update their comprehensive plan in 2027, and to two years after the bill's effective day for all other cities.	Executive action (Vote) taken on 1/24; Scheduled for public hearing in House Appropriations on 2/22
<a href="#">HB 1214</a>	Thai	Working Families' Tax Credit.	Expands eligibility for the working families' tax credit to everyone age 18 and older.	Public hearing held in House Finance on 2/4
<a href="#">HB 1216</a> (Companion: <a href="#">SB 5195</a> )	Tharinger	Concerning the capital budget.	Capital budget for the 2025-27 biennium.	Public hearing held in House Capital Budget on 1/16

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<a href="#">HB 1225</a>	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
<a href="#">HB 1282</a>	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.	Public hearing held in House Early Learning & Human Services on 1/28
<a href="#">HB 1299</a> (Companion: <a href="#">SB 5184</a> )	Peterson	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.	Public hearing held in House Local Government on 2/4
<a href="#">HB 1307</a>	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 1/1/26.	Public hearing held in House Finance on 2/7

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<a href="#">HB 1314</a> (Companion: <a href="#">SB 5297</a> )	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.	Public hearing held in House Capital Budget on 1/30 at 1:30pm; Executive Action (Vote) taken on 2/6; In House Rules
<a href="#">HB 1318</a>	Rule	Providing a sales and use tax exemption for children's diapers.	Exempts children's diapers from sales and use tax.	Public hearing held in House Finance on 2/7
<a href="#">HB 1319</a>	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 1/1/26.	Referred to House Finance
<a href="#">HB 1320</a>	Street	Business & occupation tax.	Modifies business and occupation tax rates to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians.	Referred to House Finance
<a href="#">HB 1350</a> (Companion: <a href="#">SB 5500</a> )	Cortes	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

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<a href="#">HB 1351</a>	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.  1/31: Substitute includes technical clarifying amendments	Executive action (Vote) taken on 1/31; Adopted technical clarifying amendments; Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 2/13; Scheduled for Executive Session (Vote) in House Appropriations on 2/20
<a href="#">HB 1363</a>	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.	Public hearing held in House Early Learning & Human Services on 2/12
<a href="#">HB 1383</a>	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

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[HB 1450](#)

Santos

Transition to kindergarten.

Makes adjustments to the Transition to Kindergarten program.

2/18: Substitute strikes all provisions of underlying bill and establishes Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) as a policy opposed to a program, affirms exclusion from basic education and related funding obligations, proposes limits to enrollment and eligibility, further defines terms like "extreme child care access desert" and more, defines the role of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) related to the policy, and poses further requirements for schools and districts for attaining approval from OSPI to implement the TTK policy.

Public hearing held in House Education on 1/28 at 4:00pm; Executive action (vote) taken on substitute bill in House Education on 2/18; to House Appropriations Committee

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<a href="#">HB 1489</a>	Ormsby	Childhood education implementation dates.	<p>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.</p> <p>2/12: Substitute delays ECEAP entitlement for families at or below 50% of SMI adjusted for family size from the 2030-31 school year to the 2034-35 school year. Also makes changes to eligibility for the WCCC eligibility program.</p>	Public hearing held in House Appropriations on 2/6; Executive Action (vote) taken with adoption of substitute on 2/13; to House Rules
<a href="#">HB 1562</a>	Hunt	Diaper changing stations.	<p>Increases availability of baby diaper changing stations by requiring them in certain public restrooms in public buildings.</p> <p>2/7: Substitute increases the dollar threshold for a public restroom remodel or renovation in a public building to trigger the requirement to have baby diaper changing stations available within the building from \$10,000 to \$15,000.</p>	Public hearing held in House Local Government on 2/4; Executive Action (Vote) taken with adoption of substitute on 2/7; House Floor
<a href="#">HB 1564</a>	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 1/1/26 and expiring on 1/1/38.	Public hearing held in House Finance on 2/6



<a href="#">HB 1582</a> (Companion: <a href="#">SB 5655</a> )	Caldier	Child care centers/buildings.	Clarifies occupancy calculation standards for child care centers operated in existing buildings such as churches.	Public hearing held in House Early Learning & Human Services on 2/4; Executive action (Vote) taken on 2/14; To Rules
<a href="#">HB 1593</a>	Reeves	Social equity land trust.	Creates a permanent children's social equity land trust with the Department of Natural Resources for the benefit of families in need of child care access. Would direct 70% of revenues generated from land acquisition and management into the proposed child care trust account which will dispense child care grants, awarded by the Department of Commerce.	Referred to House Agriculture & Natural Resources
<a href="#">HB 1600</a>	Eslick	Family services support fee.	Increases the maximum fee counties may impose on marriage licenses from \$15 to \$30 for the purpose of funding family services.	Public hearing held in House Local Government on 2/4; Executive action (Vote) taken on 2/7; To Rules

<a href="#">HB 1648</a>	Dent	Child care qualifications.	<p>Delays the requirement for child care providers to meet certification and training qualifications until at least 8/1/35. Also adds a work equivalency option as an alternative to certification requirements for all child care positions.</p> <p>2/18: Substitute amends the window in which providers can earn certification, complete community-based pathway trainings, or demonstrate experience-based competency. Establishes a minimum requirement of continuous employment in demonstrating experience-based competency and requires DCYF to adopt policies to allow for temporary breaks in employment. Further requires DCYF to convene a stakeholder group and produce a report to the legislature on strategies to improve qualification requirements by 12/1/26. Finally, removes provision requiring community-based training pathway be available in an online format, requiring the DCYF convened stakeholder group to identify online options instead.</p>	<p>Public hearing held in House Early Learning &amp; Human Services on 2/4; Executive action (Vote) taken with adoption of substitute bill on 2/18; To House Appropriations</p>
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<a href="#">HB 1649</a>	Dent	Child care community pathway programs.	Requires DCYF to redesign the current community-based training pathway for licensed child care providers by August 1, 2025, to be based on the building bridges curriculum. Also delays the requirement for child care providers to meet qualifications until at least 8/1/2035 and adds a work equivalency alternative to certification and training.	Referred to House Early Learning & Human Services
<a href="#">HB 1665</a>	Dufault	Capital gains tax repeal.	Repeals the capital gains income tax.	Referred to House Finance
<a href="#">HB 1767</a>	Zahn	Concerning school enrollments for enrichment funding.	Expands the definition of student enrollment for Local Education Assistance Purposes to include students enrolled in Transition to Kindergarten, dropout reengagement programs, running start programs, ECEAP, and students aged three to five not yet enrolled in kindergarten but are receiving special education.	Referred to House Finance

<a href="#">HB 1805</a>	Tharinger	Creating a local sales and use tax to fund services for children and families.	Grants counties the authority to impose a new sales and use tax not to exceed 0.01% for the purpose of providing additional services that assist children and their families including child care, maternity support services, school-based services that address mental, social, and physical health, workforce capacity building, shelter, rental assistant, and client transportation.	Scheduled for public hearing in House Finance on 2/21 at 1:30pm
<a href="#">HB 1865</a>	Bergquist	Expanding access for small business employees and adjusting implementation dates for working connections child care.	Expands Working Connections Child Care for families with one household member employed by a small business where household income does not exceed 75% State Median Income (SMI). Bill defines small business as those with 50 or fewer employees. Also delays implementation of income eligibility provisions from 60 to 75% of SMI included in the Fair Start for Kids Act from 7/1/25 to 7/1/29. Further, also delays the next phase of eligibility expansion from 75 to 85% of SMI (subject to appropriation) from 7/1/27 to 7/1/31.	Referred to House Early Learning & Human Services  <i>Note HB 1919 is the vehicle for this issue</i>

<a href="#">HB 1866</a>	Cortes	Concerning a grant fund advance pilot.	Creates a pilot program with the Department of Commerce to advance funds to nonprofits with demonstrated need that have received grants from the Department to support grant performance, expiring on 6/30/28. Also directs the Department to submit a report to the legislature on the performance of the program by 9/1/27.	Referred to House Appropriations
<a href="#">HB 1873</a>	Zahn	Concerning the Working Connections Child Care program for graduate and professional students.	Extends eligibility for the Working Connections Child Care program to applicants enrolled full-time in a graduate or professional program at an institution of higher education when their household meets all other program eligibility requirements.	Referred to House Early Learning & Human Services
<a href="#">HB 1919</a>	Bergquist	Modifying access to the working connections child care program.	Expands Working Connections Child Care for families with one household member employed by a small business where household income does not exceed 75% State Median Income (SMI). Bill defines small business as those with 50 or fewer employees. Also delays implementation of income eligibility provisions from 60 to 75% of SMI included in the Fair Start for Kids Act from 7/1/25 to 7/1/29. Further, also delays the next phase of eligibility expansion from 75 to 85% of SMI (subject to appropriation) from 7/1/27 to 7/1/31.	Public hearing held in House Early Learning & Human Services on 2/12

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<a href="#">HB 1993</a>	Waters	Concerning business and occupation tax on child care providers.	Permanently exempts child care providers from business and occupation tax.	Referred to House Finance
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Bill No.	Prime Sponsor	Title	Summary	Status
<a href="#">SB 5030</a>	Wilson, C.	Improving access to educational services by reducing barriers to obtaining vital records and allowing alternative forms of documentation.	<p>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.</p> <p>1/29: Substitute provided clarifying amendments specifying what documentation is sufficient for the waiver.</p>	Public hearing in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee on 1/14; Executive action (Vote) taken on 1/29 with adoption of substitute amendment; Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/17
<a href="#">SB 5062</a> (Companion: <a href="#">HB 1128</a> )	Stanford	Establishing a child care workforce standards board.	<p>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.</p> <p>1/31: Among other provisions, substitute adjusts the makeup of the board, changed the number of votes required for board action, and made further updates on the number of languages required for written materials.</p>	Executive action (Vote) taken on 1/31 with adoption of substitute amendments; Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/10

<a href="#">SB 5130</a>	Wilson, C.	Eliminating child care licensing fees.	Eliminates child care licensing fees.	Executive action (Vote) taken in Senate Early Learning & K-12 on 1/29; Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/10
<a href="#">SB 5145</a>	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
<a href="#">SB 5166</a> (Companion: <a href="#">HB 1197</a> )	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
<a href="#">SB 5167</a> (Companion: <a href="#">HB 1198</a> )	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

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<a href="#">SB 5184</a>	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.	Public hearing held in Senate Housing on 1/24; Executive action (Vote) taken on 2/5 with adoption of substitute amendments; Passed the Senate 40-8 with adoption of engrossed substitute bill; To House
(Companion: <a href="#">HB 1299</a> )			2/5: Substitute changes prohibition of parking requirements based on square feet rather than feet and exempts cities, code cities and counties within a one-mile radius of certain commercial airports	
			2/19: Adopted floor amendments clarify exemptions and limitations on the parking requirements in the underlying bill.	
<a href="#">SB 5195</a>	Trudeau	Concerning the capital budget.	Capital budget for the 2025-27 biennium.	Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 1/13
(Companion: <a href="#">HB 1216</a> )				
<a href="#">SB 5199</a>	Wilson, C.	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; Passed the Senate on 2/5 49-0; To House Early Learning & Human Services

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<a href="#">SB 5279</a> (Companion: <a href="#">HB 1082</a> )	Wilson, C.	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 Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 2/4
<a href="#">SB 5297</a> (Companion: <a href="#">HB 1314</a> )	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.	Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/6; Executive action (Vote) taken on 2/20; To Rules
<a href="#">SB 5310</a>	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 <sup>th</sup> percentile of the market, to child care providers. Effective 7/1/25.	Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/3
<a href="#">SB 5341</a>	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
<a href="#">SB 5416</a>	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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<a href="#">SB 5500</a>	Alvarado	Child care reimbursement rates.	<p>Transitions reimbursement rates for the Working Connections Child Care program to reflect the Cost of Quality Care.</p> <p>2/12: Amendments specify that the provisions related to collective bargaining agreements for family child care providers do not go into effect until July 1, 2027.</p>	Public hearing held in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 2/4; Executive Action (Vote) taken with adoption of substitute amendments on 2/12; Senate Floor
<a href="#">SB 5509</a>	Alvarado	Concerning the siting of child care centers.	<p>Requires cities and towns to allow child care centers as an outright permitted use in all zones except industrial zones.</p> <p>2/13: Substitute adjusts implementation timeline to 2027 for cities that are required to update their comprehensive plan in 2027, and to two years after the bill's effective day for all other cities. Additionally clarifies that light industrial and open space zones are included in the exempt industrial zones.</p>	Public hearing held in Senate Local Government on 2/6; Scheduled for Executive Action (Vote) taken with adoption of substitute amendments on 2/13; Public hearing held in Senate Ways & Means on 2/20
<a href="#">SB 5522</a>	Krishnadasan	Concerning the state capitol campus.	<p>Makes changes to the membership and authority of the State Capitol Committee and Capital Campus Design Subcommittee.</p> <p>2/11: Substitute provides clarifying amendments related to the scope and timeline of project reviews.</p>	Public hearing held in Senate State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections on 2/4; Executive Action (Vote) taken with adoption of substitute amendments on 2/11; In Senate Ways & Means

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<a href="#">SB 5545</a>	Riccelli	Concerning family home providers overseen and certified by a federal military service.	<p>Exempts from child care licensing family home providers located off a federal military reservation that is overseen and certified by a federal military service.</p> <p>2/18: Substitute specifies that family home providers located in the surrounding metropolitan area of a federal military reservation are exempt from licensing by DCYF, while still being subject to investigation by DCYF of all referrals of alleged child abuse or neglect occurring at these family home providers in the surrounding metropolitan area.</p>	Public hearing held in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 2/12; Executive Action (Vote) taken with adoption of substitute on 2/18; Senate Floor
<a href="#">SB 5655</a>	Krishnadasan	Child care centers/buildings.	<p>Clarifies occupancy calculation standards for child care centers operated in existing buildings such as churches.</p> <p>2/18: Substitute provides clarifying amendments related to application and calculation of occupancy load.</p>	Public hearing held in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education on 2/12; Executive Action (Vote) taken with adoption of substitute on 2/18; Senate Floor

<a href="#">SB 5752</a>	Wilson, C.	Modifying child care and early childhood development programs.	Delays implementation of income eligibility provisions from 60 to 75% of State Median Income (SMI) included in the Fair Start for Kids Act from 7/1/25 to 7/1/29 and for 75 to 85% SMI (subject to availability of funds) from 7/1/27 to 7/1/31. Additionally, removes the ability to waive work requirements for registered apprenticeship program participants, repeals expanded eligibility for applicants in registered apprenticeship programs, repeals expanded eligibility for child care employees, creates a new co-payment structure for new and re-applicants, and makes certain programs Subject to Appropriation. Also delays ECEAP entitlement from the 2026-27 school year until the 2030-31 school year and repeals the Early ECEAP program. Contains an emergency clause making the bill's provision effective 7/1/25.	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>.*