

HB 2024 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Student Success

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Meeting Dates: 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Early Learning Division (ELD) to administer a program to improve access to high quality infant and toddler care for families that are eligible for Employment-Related Day Care (ERDC) program. Requires Early Learning Hubs (Hubs) to conduct a community needs assessment to identify geographic areas or populations that have highest need and submit plan to address needs to ELD. Requires ELD to contract with resource and referral entities to recruit eligible providers to participate in infant and toddler care program and identify local entity within each Hub region responsible for awarding grants and contracts to eligible providers. Defines “local entity.”

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Cost for child care in Oregon (average of \$14,000 a year for a toddler in full-time care)
- Child care desert in Oregon
- Effect of low wages for most child care workers
- Lack of stability/consistency of teachers for children in child care

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Human Services’ Employment-Related Day Care (ERDC) program helps eligible low-income families pay for child care while they are working. ERDC provides a subsidy, meaning that eligible families still pay a part of the child care cost. ERDC also works with providers and other child care partners across the state to help families find and retain quality child care, improve the availability of quality child care in Oregon, and develop resources for parents and child care providers.

House Bill 2024-A directs the Early Learning Division to administer a program to improve access to high quality infant and toddler care for ERDC-eligible families.