

A-Engrossed House Bill 2897

Ordered by the House April 8
Including House Amendments dated April 8

Sponsored by Representatives HERNANDEZ, LIVELY, FAHEY, KENY-GUYER, SMITH G, SMITH WARNER, Senators GELSER, ROBLAN; Representatives ALONSO LEON, BONHAM, CLEM, DOHERTY, GREENLICK, HELT, MCLAIN, MEEK, NERON, NOSSE, PILUSO, POWER, PRUSAK, REARDON, SALINAS, SANCHEZ, Senators DEMBROW, FAGAN, HEARD, THOMSEN, WAGNER

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.

Establishes Early Childhood Equity Fund. Authorizes Early Learning Division to make grants from fund for purpose of supporting culturally specific early learning, early childhood and parent support programs in this state **and to promote capacity of culturally specific organizations to deliver programs.**

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to grants for early childhood programs; creating new provisions; amending ORS 417.790;
3 and prescribing an effective date.

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

5 **SECTION 1. (1) The Early Childhood Equity Fund is established in the State Treasury,**
6 **separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Early Childhood Equity**
7 **Fund shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the**
8 **Department of Education for the Early Learning Division to make grants under section 2 of**
9 **this 2019 Act to culturally specific early learning, early childhood and parent support pro-**
10 **grams and to promote the capacity of culturally specific organizations to deliver these pro-**
11 **grams.**

12 **(2) The fund shall consist of:**

13 **(a) Moneys appropriated or otherwise transferred to the fund by the Legislative Assem-**
14 **bly;**

15 **(b) Earnings received on moneys in the fund;**

16 **(c) Amounts donated to the fund; and**

17 **(d) Other amounts deposited into the fund from any source.**

18 **SECTION 2. (1) The Early Learning Division may make grants from the Early Childhood**
19 **Equity Fund established under section 1 of this 2019 Act to culturally specific early learning,**
20 **early childhood and parent support programs in this state that build capacity in communi-**
21 **ties, ensure children start kindergarten ready to succeed and support families to be stable,**
22 **healthy and attached. For the purposes of this subsection, a program is in this state if it**
23 **serves communities within the geographic boundaries of this state, including communities**
24 **within Indian country of a federally recognized Oregon Indian tribe that is within the ge-**
25 **ographic boundaries of this state.**

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 **(2) To receive a grant under this section, a program must:**

2 **(a) Provide outreach, support and resources to children and families who are at risk be-**
3 **cause of any combination of two or more factors, including their race, ethnicity, English**
4 **language proficiency, socioeconomic status and geographic location; and**

5 **(b) Demonstrate a proven ability to provide outreach, support and resources to children**
6 **and families described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.**

7 **(3) The division shall monitor capacity needs and provide technical assistance to**
8 **grantees.**

9 **(4) The division shall conduct a biennial evaluation of programs that receive grants under**
10 **this section. The evaluation shall include measurement of outcomes that align with:**

11 **(a) Current research regarding positive child and family indicators, including family sta-**
12 **bility and early childhood school readiness; and**

13 **(b) Culturally specific approaches.**

14 **(5) The Early Learning Council, in consultation with the division, shall adopt rules nec-**
15 **essary to carry out the provisions of this section. The rules shall include requirements for**
16 **eligibility for grants under this section.**

17 **(6) Prior to September 15 of each odd-numbered year, the division shall submit to the**
18 **interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to early childhood and child welfare**
19 **a report on the status and impact of grants made to programs under this section. The report**
20 **shall include changes in the capacity of culturally specific organizations and the results of**
21 **any biennial evaluations conducted in accordance with subsection (4) of this section.**

22 **SECTION 3.** ORS 417.790 is amended to read:

23 417.790. The Early Learning Division shall:

24 **(1) Make grants to fund research-based services and initiatives to improve outcomes for chil-**
25 **dren, youth or families.**

26 **(2) Make Great Start grants to fund community-based programs for children zero through six**
27 **years of age. A recipient shall use Great Start grant funds to provide research-based early childhood**
28 **programs in community settings and to provide services that have proven to be successful and that**
29 **meet the needs of the community. These services shall be provided in accordance with ORS 417.728.**

30 **(3) Make grants under section 2 of this 2019 Act to fund culturally specific early learning,**
31 **early childhood and parent support programs that build capacity in communities to provide**
32 **culturally appropriate services to ensure children start kindergarten ready to succeed and**
33 **to support family stability.**

34 **SECTION 4.** **In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
35 **ated to the Department of Education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the**
36 **General Fund, the amount of \$20,000,000 for the Early Learning Division for deposit in the**
37 **Early Childhood Equity Fund established under section 1 of this 2019 Act for the purpose of**
38 **making grants to culturally specific early learning, early childhood and parent support pro-**
39 **grams and implementing and administering the provisions of section 2 of this 2019 Act.**

40 **SECTION 5.** **This 2019 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2019**
41 **regular session of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.**

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