



THIS WEEK IN OLYMPIA

Week of February 23, 2009

The following information is a brief summary on the bill activity and key hearings that the Department of Early Learning (DEL) has monitored. This weekly summary is not an indication of bills or positions supported by DEL. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all bills and hearings related to issues impacting early learning.

Bills

No new bills monitored by DEL were introduced this week.

Hearings

On Monday, a public hearing on **House Bill 6048** was held in the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee. HB 6048 describes the Legislature's intent for continuing to refine basic education funded by the state. The TVW archive of this hearing is available at this [link](#).

On Tuesday, a public hearing on Senate **Bill 5915** was held in the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee. SB 5915 would allow state agencies to adopt emergency rules (WAC) when the state employment growth forecast is less than one percent. The TVW archive of this hearing is available at this [link](#).

On Tuesday, a public hearing on **Senate Bill 5865** was held in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. SB 5865 requires a JLARC study on early learning services for low-income families, including Head Start and ECEAP, and repeals the Washington Head Start Program proposal. The TVW archive of this hearing is available at this [link](#).

On Wednesday, a public hearing on **Substitute House Bill 1944** was held in the House Education Appropriations Committee. SHB 1944 would direct DEL and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to convene a work group to develop a statewide kindergarten assessment process to be field tested and made available to school districts. The TVW archive of this hearing is available at this [link](#).

On Thursday, a public hearing on **Senate Bill 5572** was held in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. SB 5572 would allow child care center directors and staff to unionize and engage the state in collective bargaining. Testimony on was offered by representatives of the Washington Education Association, Service Employees International Union 925, a Tri-Cities child care center provider, a consortium of child care centers, and the Evergreen Freedom Foundation. The TVW archive of this hearing is available at this [link](#).

On Friday, a public hearing on **House Bill 3129** was held in the House Ways and Means Committee. HB 1329 intends to create a new type of collective bargaining for child care center directors and workers. Testimony was offered by representatives of the Washington Education Association (WEA), American

Federation of Teachers (AFT), SEIU 925, YMCAs of Washington, Washington Child Care United, and the Washington Child Care Alliance. The TVW archive of this hearing is available at this [link](#).

On Friday, a public hearing on **House Bill 2107** was held in the House Ways and Means Committee. HB 2107 is regarding the delivery of early learning home visitation programs. Testimony was offered by one person who represented four different entities – the Children’s Home Society, the Washington Association of Head Start and ECEAP, the Early Learning Action Alliance, and the Washington Home Visiting Coalition. The TVW archive of this hearing is available at this [link](#).

Bills Reported (Passed) by Policy or Fiscal Committees This Week*

[House Bill 1943](#), a bill that directs the Professional Development Consortium convened by the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) to develop recommendations for a statewide system of preparation and continuing professional development for the early learning and school age workforce, was passed off of the House suspension calendar on February 27.

[House Bill 1944](#), a bill directing DEL and OSPI to develop and test a statewide kindergarten assessment, was passed by the House Education Appropriations Committee on February 26. The bill is in the House Ways and Means Committee.

[Senate Bill 5572](#), a bill that would allow child care center directors and workers to unionize, was reported by the Senate Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee on February 23 and referred to the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

[Senate Bill 5915](#), a bill to allow state agencies to change their regulations (WAC) by emergency rule making when the state employment forecast is estimated at less than one percent, was reported by the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee on February 24. The bill is in the Senate Rules Committee.

[Senate Bill 6048](#), a bill detailing the Legislature’s intent for continuing to refine basic education funded by the state, was reported by the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee on February 24. The bill is in the Senate Rules Committee.

*Notes:

- Bills may pass out of Committee or on the chamber floor as substitutes. That information is reported in the link provided.
- February 25 was the deadline to read and pass bills out of House and Senate policy committees, except bills that have a fiscal impact or Senate transportation bills. House and Senate fiscal committees and the Senate Transportation Committee must act on bills referred to them by March 2.