



OREGON HOUSE BILL 3073

Overview

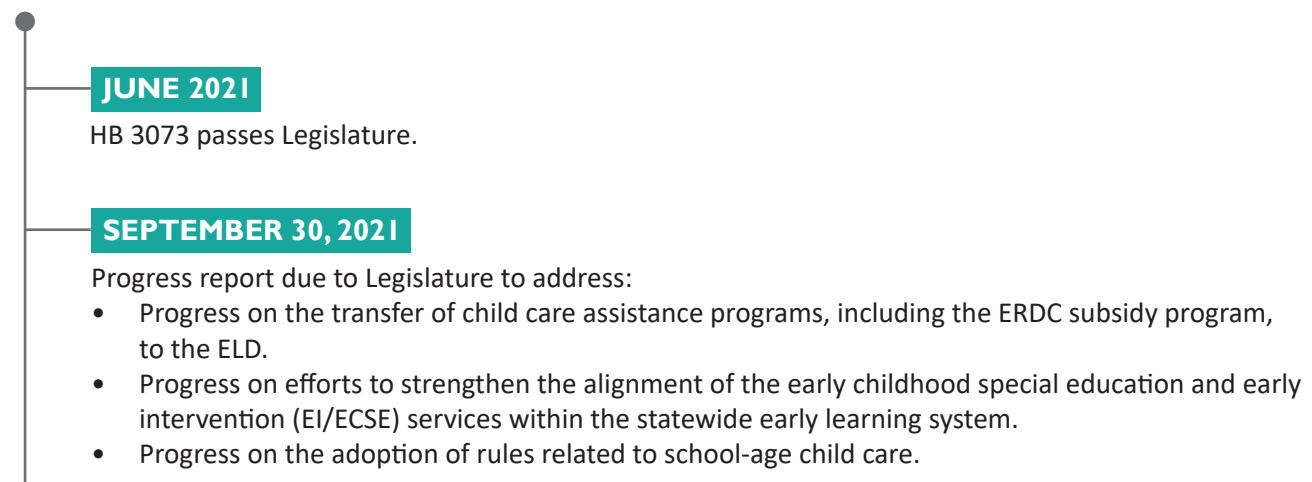
The legislation builds on Oregon’s work to increase access to affordable, high-quality learning experiences and supports for children and families by establishing a new early learning agency. The new agency, the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC), will consolidate early child care services into one state agency, including licensing, registration, and the distribution of state and federal child care funds. Most of these key functions currently exist in the Early Learning Division (ELD), which is part of the Oregon Department of Education.

One of the programs that will be moving into the new agency is the Employment Related Day Care Program (ERDC). ERDC is currently housed in Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). ERDC is a child care subsidy program, providing low-income families with access to stable, quality child care. The program helps parents maintain stable employment on their path to self-sufficiency and allows children to access high-quality early care and education programs. The legislation also establishes additional eligibility and subsidy policies for ERDC to expand access and flexibility for families and providers across the state.

Goals

The goal of House Bill 3073 is to create a child care and early learning system that is more responsive to the needs of children, families, and providers, particularly our most vulnerable families. A single agency positions Oregon to best support funding and expansion opportunities with state and federal resources. This will help the new agency grow the supply of child care (especially in rural communities) and ensure equitable access in support of children, families, and providers.

Timeline



JANUARY 15, 2022

Two progress reports are due to the Legislature:

1. Report outlining key components for further consideration. The report will include improved budget and staffing impacts and the following:
 - Progress on the transfer of background checks inspections for the ERDC program to the ELD.
 - Recommendations for and progress on the transfer of child care assistance programs, including the ERDC to the ELD.
 - Recommendations to strengthen the alignment of the early childhood special education and early intervention (EI/ECSE) services within the statewide early learning system, including any recommended changes to governance, policymaking, or other oversight of the system.
 - Progress on the adoption of school-age child care administrative rules.
2. Report on the fiscal impact and timeline of eligibility changes to the ERDC program are to be determined, including how the new department will merge technology systems. This may include recommendations to prolong timelines beyond June 30, 2023 or additional investments as needed.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

The ELD, Oregon Department of Education, and ODHS will report to the Legislature on implementation plans for the seamless transfer of duties, functions, and powers to the new agency.

JULY 1, 2023

The Department of Early Learning and Care is established.

All changes to ERDC eligibility, the transfer of the ERDC program, and the implementation of the Department of Early Learning and Care are completed, unless additional action is taken by the Legislature.

For more information, visit oregonearlylearning.com/HB3073. Questions? Email DEL.C.Info@ode.oregon.gov or Nicole Stapp from the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), (971) 719-0123 and Nicole.Stapp@dhsosha.state.or.us.