

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0074

Kindergarten readiness programs.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Connolly, Blikre, Greene,
Harshman, Roscoe, Throne and Wallis and
Senator(s) Anderson, Barnard and Rothfuss

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to early childhood development,
2 kindergarten readiness and early literacy development;
3 providing for development of policy and system structure
4 through statewide consensus discussions as specified;
5 prescribing duties; providing an appropriation; and
6 providing for an effective date.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.**

11

12 (a) The department of workforce services shall
13 conduct a series of statewide discussions to develop state
14 policy on comprehensive early childhood development,
15 kindergarten readiness and early literacy development. For
16 purposes of this section, relevant stakeholders include but

1 are not limited to representatives of parents, advocacy
2 groups, teachers, the department of health, the University
3 of Wyoming literacy faculty, the department of family
4 services, the department of workforce services, the
5 department of corrections, the department of education, the
6 early childhood state advisory council, child care
7 providers, kindergarten teachers and advocacy groups.
8 Results of these discussions shall be used to develop state
9 policy and guide the sustainability of systems by
10 addressing:

11

12 (i) Kindergarten readiness as defined through a
13 comprehensive system providing clear and comprehensive
14 guidelines to ensure children entering school are ready for
15 kindergarten;

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17 (ii) Development of early learning standards
18 that:

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20 (A) Address cognitive language, motor and
21 social emotional development as well as physical and mental
22 health;

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24 (B) Include child outcomes.

1

2 (iii) Coordination and effectiveness of existing
3 early childhood resources available to the state, which
4 shall ensure existing government support is provided to
5 high-need children in a coordinated, streamlined and
6 effective manner, together with a review of funding sources
7 available for program provision;

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9 (iv) Developmentally appropriate and effective,
10 evidence-based early literacy strategies with
11 recommendations for:

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13 (A) Inclusion of families in early literacy
14 development; and

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16 (B) Professional development pathways to
17 deliver knowledge and skills to early childhood
18 professionals.

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20 (v) Continued parental involvement in the
21 development of state policy;

22

1 (vi) Affordable access to quality early
2 childhood development systems that promote kindergarten
3 readiness for all children.

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5 (b) The department of workforce services may contract
6 with appropriate persons and organizations to conduct the
7 consensus discussions required under subsection (a) of this
8 section and to assist with work necessary to establish
9 policies and systems required under subsection (a) of this
10 section. Progress on consensus discussions and policy
11 development shall be reported to the joint education
12 interim committee, culminating in a final report to the
13 committee to be submitted on or before October 15, 2012.
14 The final report shall be comprised of policy
15 recommendations addressing those issues identified in
16 subsection (a) of this section, together with necessary
17 enabling legislation. Broad public involvement shall be
18 documented in the report, which shall serve as the basis
19 for development of uniform policy on early childhood
20 development, kindergarten readiness and early literacy
21 development.

22
23 (c) One hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00)
24 is appropriated from the school foundation program account

1 to the department of workforce services for the period
2 commencing on the effective date of this section and ending
3 June 30, 2013. The department shall expend monies
4 appropriated under this subsection to conduct consensus
5 discussions and to develop policy and processes specified
6 under this section, and may use these monies to contract
7 with appropriate persons and organizations as authorized
8 under subsection (b) of this section.

9

10 **Section 2.** This act is effective immediately upon
11 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
12 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
13 Constitution.

14

15 (END)