



## Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Feedback Loop

April 1, 2025

### Recommendations, Input and Decisions Made, Status Updates

#### Follow Up Items from Feb. 4 ELAC Meeting:

##### Executive Session

- **Does Governor Ferguson’s directive on advisory committees affect ELAC?**
  - No, ELAC should not be affected by this directive. ELAC is established in state law under [RCW 43.216.075](#), which ensures its continued role. If any changes occur, DCYF will communicate updates as soon as possible.
- **What does Governor Ferguson’s directive say about advisory committees?**
  - Governor Ferguson’s budget priorities report includes directives for state agencies to evaluate efficiencies and potential savings. Specifically, it calls for a review of agency working groups and advisory committees that are more than four years old and may have achieved a substantial portion of their mission.
- **Where can I find more information?**
  - You can read Governor Ferguson’s Budget Priorities for 2025-2027 [here](#). The advisory committee directive is on page 6.

##### Early Learning Legislative Update

- **Has ELAC taken a position as a Council on bills in the past or provided testimony? Are there barriers to doing that?**
  - ELAC has not previously taken a position on legislation as a council. While individual ELAC members may have provided testimony on their own behalf, to DCYF’s knowledge, ELAC has not collectively testified or formally taken a stance on any bills.
  - [RCW 42.17A.635](#) governs the legislative activities of state agencies, including those of advisory committees. This law requires public agencies to ensure that public resources are not used directly or indirectly for lobbying activities. As government-convened bodies, advisory groups are not positioned to take official stances on legislation or engage in advocacy, as this falls outside their intended role. Additionally, they cannot convene specifically to discuss and reach consensus on legislative testimony, as this would involve the use of public time.
  - To provide clarity and direction, DCYF’s Office of Public Affairs is developing a memo to guide all advisory groups on their role in legislative discussions and what to expect when providing information to policymakers. This guidance is currently in development.
- **Even though the agency testifies for bills, the data that is presented can also sway the vote. How will DCYF stay neutral when sharing testimony about these bills?**
  - As a cabinet-level agency, DCYF’s job is not to take a neutral stance. DCYF, like other state agencies, provides information and data, but also policy opinions based on our mission, vision and charge. DCYF is focused on the well-being of children and is guided by the vision to ensure that the state’s children and youth grow up safe and healthy, so that they may thrive, nurtured by family and community. We do our work within this operational environment and through this lens, including when the agency provides testimony on bills. Testimony is grounded in information concerning whether the provisions of a bill may be implemented or not and the potential impacts to children, families, and providers. This means that DCYF does not always provide neutral testimony – particularly if we have concerns about the impacts of a bill to children, families and providers. DCYF may also support a bill if provisions align with the agency’s mission and work. Data is an important part of testimony that provides greater objectivity to decision-makers by clarifying and contextualizing statements, technical feedback, and questions.



- **Is it possible to share who sponsored each bill?**
  - Bill 5509, Alvarado: Concerning the siting of child care centers.
  - Bill 5545, Riccelli: Modifying provisions regarding family home providers overseen and certified by a federal military service.
  - Bill 5655, Krishnadasan: Concerning child care centers operated in existing buildings.
  - Bill 1314, Callan: Early learning facilities grant and loan program.
  - Bill 1351, Bernbaum: Adjusting age requirements for accessing ECEAP.
  - Bill 1648, Dent: Modifying child care provider qualifications.
  - Bill 5030, Wilson: Vital Records Access.
  - Bill 1489, Ormsby: Adjusting implementation dates for programs related to ECE and child care.
  - Bill 5752, Wilson: Modifying child care and early childhood development program.
  - Bill 2012, Bergquist: Funding the transition to kindergarten program.
  - Bill 5769, Wellman: Addressing transition to kindergarten programs.
  - **Find a bill:** The Legislature puts out many bill reports and types of bill lists. Use the quick search if you know the number of the bill or initiative, here: <https://leg.wa.gov/bills-meetings-and-session/bills/>
- **In the past, the house bills that don't have a senate companion bill usually don't make it. Can one of you share out which bills you feel may or may not make it based on legislative feedback the DCYF team has received to date?**
  - That is information we do not know yet. DCYF cannot speculate as to what might happen, though we may provide information concerning what bills we observe make it through key session deadlines. The Washington State Legislature website posts cutoff lists the morning after each cutoff during session. Those may be found here: [Latest session documents](#). Please also note the following important deadlines during the current session:
    - February 21: Policy Committee Cutoff
    - February 28: Fiscal Committee Cutoff
    - March 12: Chamber of Origin Cutoff
    - April 2: Policy Committee Cutoff – Opposite House
    - April 8: Fiscal Committee Cutoff – Opposite House
    - April 16: Opposite House Cutoff
    - April 27: Last day of regular session