

the department may contract with other state agencies to obtain expertise or input uniquely available from that agency.

Sec. 15. Section 10, chapter 19, Laws of 1983 1st ex. sess. and RCW 43.200.900 are each amended to read as follows:

The rules of strict construction do not apply to this ~~((act))~~ chapter and it shall be liberally construed in order to carry out the objective for which it is designed, in accordance with the legislative intent to give the ~~((department of ecology))~~ board the maximum possible freedom in carrying the provisions of this ~~((act))~~ chapter into effect.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 16. Sections 1, 3, and 9 through 14 of this act are each added to chapter 43.200 RCW.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 17. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 18. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House February 29, 1984.

Passed the Senate February 24, 1984.

Approved by the Governor March 8, 1984.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 8, 1984.

CHAPTER 162

[Engrossed Substitute House Bill No. 1655]

CHILD DAY CARE CENTERS FOR CHILDREN OF STATE EMPLOYEES

AN ACT Relating to child care; adding new sections to chapter 41.04 RCW; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature recognizes that on-site child day care for employees of public and private organizations is a worthwhile pursuit. To further the goals of affordable, accessible, and quality child care for working parents, the legislature intends to establish a self-supporting child care demonstration project for employees of state government. The legislature recognizes that appropriate child day care services may enhance productivity and lower absenteeism among state employees.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The department of general administration shall identify an amount of suitable space in state-owned or state-leased buildings in the Olympia area for use as child day care centers for the children of state employees.

The department of general administration shall establish a fair rental rate for the organization to pay for the space used.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. (1) The department of personnel shall conduct a needs assessment to determine the need for and interest in child day care facilities for the children of state employees;

(2) The department of personnel shall determine the number of children which may participate in the demonstration project required under sections 1 through 3 of this act; and

(3) If the suitable space is determined to be available, the department of personnel shall contract with one or more organizations to operate child day care facilities for the children identified under this section. Such facilities may be located in one or more buildings as identified under section 2 of this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. The department of general administration and the department of personnel shall report on the project to the state government committees of the senate and house of representatives at the following times:

(1) Upon completion of the needs care assessment;

(2) After space has been identified in buildings and child day care programs are established; and

(3) After six months of operation of the child day care programs.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. There is appropriated from the general fund to the department of personnel for the biennium ending June 30, 1985, the sum of forty-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to conduct a needs assessment to determine the need for and interest in child day care services for state employees and for start-up costs to implement this act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each added to chapter 41.04 RCW.

Passed the House February 29, 1984.

Passed the Senate February 26, 1984.

Approved by the Governor March 8, 1984.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 8, 1984.

CHAPTER 163

[Substitute Senate Bill No. 3098]

COUNTY FREEHOLDER VACANCIES

AN ACT Relating to vacancies in county office; and adding a new section to chapter 36-.32 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington: