

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill modifies scholarship amount requirements and appropriations for the early learning scholarships program.

Section

- 1 Administration.** Removes a \$5,000 scholarship cap per person for early learning scholarships to attend early childhood programs, and directs the Commissioner of Education to establish a target average scholarship amount based on a biennial Department of Human Services market rate survey of child care providers.
- 2 Program funding.** Establishes a standing general fund appropriation for the early learning scholarship program, which must be at least twice the amount appropriated in the previous fiscal year (starting in fiscal year 2016) or the amount necessary to fully fund the program. Appropriates the calculated amount less any other appropriations in law for the program.

(Unless the program is fully funded at a smaller amount, in conjunction with the change in section 3, the appropriation would be \$86 million in fiscal year 2016 and \$172 million in fiscal year 2017.)
- 3 Early childhood education scholarships.** Increases by \$20 million the fiscal year 2015 general fund appropriation for early learning scholarships, from \$23 million to \$43 million.