

By Senator Wise

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
3       Program; amending s. 1002.69, F.S.; authorizing  
4       nonpublic schools to administer the statewide  
5       kindergarten screening to kindergarten students who  
6       were enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
7       Program; requiring the Department of Education to  
8       include the percentage of students who meet all state  
9       readiness measures in its provider rating methodology;  
10      removing a limitation on the minimum kindergarten  
11      readiness rate for private and public prekindergarten  
12      providers; amending s. 1002.73, F.S.; requiring the  
13      department to adopt procedures for annually reporting  
14      the percentage of students who meet all state  
15      readiness measures; providing an effective date.

16  
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19       Section 1. Subsections (1), (5), and (6) of section  
20       1002.69, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

21       1002.69 Statewide kindergarten screening; kindergarten  
22       readiness rates.—

23       (1) The department shall adopt a statewide kindergarten  
24       screening that assesses the readiness of each student for  
25       kindergarten based upon the performance standards adopted by the  
26       department under s. 1002.67(1) for the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
27       Education Program. The department shall require that each school  
28       district administer the statewide kindergarten screening to each  
29       kindergarten student in the school district within the first 30

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30 school days of each school year. Nonpublic schools may  
31 administer the statewide kindergarten screening to each  
32 kindergarten student in a nonpublic school who was enrolled in  
33 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

34 (5) The State Board of Education shall adopt procedures for  
35 the department to annually calculate each private  
36 prekindergarten provider's and public school's kindergarten  
37 readiness rate, which must be expressed as the percentage of the  
38 provider's or school's students who are assessed as ready for  
39 kindergarten. The kindergarten readiness rates must be based  
40 exclusively upon the results of the statewide kindergarten  
41 screening for students completing the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
42 Education Program, beginning with students completing the  
43 program during the 2005-2006 school year who are administered  
44 the statewide kindergarten screening during the 2006-2007 school  
45 year. The methodology for calculating each provider's readiness  
46 rate must include the percentage of students who meet all state  
47 readiness measures. The rates must not include students who are  
48 not administered the statewide kindergarten screening.

49 (6) ~~(a)~~ The State Board of Education shall periodically  
50 adopt a minimum kindergarten readiness rate that, if achieved by  
51 a private prekindergarten provider or public school, would  
52 demonstrate the provider's or school's satisfactory delivery of  
53 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

54 ~~(b) The minimum rate must not exceed the rate at which more~~  
55 ~~than 15 percent of the kindergarten readiness rates of all~~  
56 ~~private prekindergarten providers and public schools delivering~~  
57 ~~the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program in the state~~  
58 ~~would fall below the minimum rate.~~

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59           Section 3. Paragraph (f) is added to subsection (2) of  
60 section 1002.73, Florida Statutes, to read:

61           1002.73 Department of Education; powers and duties;  
62 accountability requirements.-

63           (2) The department shall adopt procedures for its:

64           (f) Annual reporting of the percentage of kindergarten  
65 students who meet all state readiness measures.

66           Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.