

Amendment No. 4

20 in a fraudulent act, it shall investigate and determine whether
21 any overpayment has occurred due to the fraudulent act. During
22 the investigation, the office may examine all records, including
23 electronic benefits transfer records, and make inquiry of all
24 persons who may have knowledge as to any irregularity incidental
25 to the disbursement of public moneys or other items or benefits
26 authorizations to recipients.

27 (c) If the inspector general determines that an
28 overpayment has occurred due to a fraudulent act, the parent or
29 provider is responsible for repayment and restitution of any
30 costs associated with the fraud, and the office shall pursue
31 collection through any legal means. A provider or parent may not
32 participate in the program until the repayment is made in full.
33 Any provider that shares an officer or director with a provider
34 that is ineligible to participate under this section will not be
35 permitted to participate until repayment is made in full.

36 (d) Based on the results of the investigation, the
37 inspector general may, in his or her discretion, refer the
38 investigation to the Department of Law Enforcement for criminal
39 prosecution, seek civil enforcement, or refer the matter to the
40 applicable coalition. Any suspected criminal violation
41 identified by the inspector general must be referred to the
42 Department of Legal Affairs for investigation.

43 (e) If a school readiness provider, after investigation
44 and adjudication by a court of competent jurisdiction, is
45 convicted of fraudulently misrepresenting enrollment or
46 attendance related to the school readiness program or the
47 Voluntary Education Prekindergarten Program, the coalition shall

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48 permanently refrain from contracting with, or using the services
49 of, that provider. In addition, the coalition shall permanently
50 refrain from contracting with, or using the services of, any
51 provider that shares an officer or director with a provider that
52 is convicted of fraudulently misrepresenting enrollment or
53 attendance related to the school readiness program or the
54 Voluntary Education Prekindergarten Program.

55 (f) If the investigation is not confidential or otherwise
56 exempt from disclosure by law, the results of an investigation
57 may be reported by the Office of Early Learning to the
58 appropriate legislative committees, the Department of Education,
59 the Department of Children and Family Services, and to such
60 other persons as the office deems appropriate.

61 (g) A person who commits an act of fraud as defined in
62 this subsection is subject to the penalties provided in s.
63 414.39(5) (a) and (b).

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68 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

69 Remove lines 32-36 and insert:

70 conflict with federal requirements; defining the term
71 "fraud" for purposes of the school readiness program;
72 providing for investigations of fraud or overpayment
73 in the school readiness program; providing for the
74 repayment of identified overpayments; limiting the
75 participation of school readiness providers and

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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76 parents in the program until repayment is made in
77 full; providing penalties for acts of fraud;
78 conforming provisions;
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