

Committee on Children, Families, And Elder Affairs

CS/CS/HB 1349 — Assistance Programs

by Health and Human Services Committee; Children, Families and Seniors Subcommittee; Rep. Aloupis and others (CS/CS/SB 414 by Appropriations Committee; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee; and Senator Perry and others)

The bill requires the Office of Early Learning (OEL) to coordinate with the University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies (Center) to conduct an analysis of recipients of the following programs:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program pursuant to 7 U.S.C. ss. 2011 et seq.;
- Temporary Cash Assistance program pursuant to s. 414.095, F.S.;
- Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.963, F.S.;
- School Readiness program pursuant to ch. 1002, F.S.; and
- Housing Choice Voucher program pursuant to 42 U.S.C. s. 1437f.

The Center must also develop participant profiles based on the number of families receiving multiple program services. The bill removes the definitions of “earned income” and “unearned income” in s. 1002.81, F.S., which means that the statute no longer specifies how family income is calculated for purposes of eligibility for the School Readiness program.

The bill requires specified agencies to enter into data sharing agreements with the OEL and the Center, subject to federal law, by September 1, 2021. Upon execution of such agreements, each agency must provide to the Center a program service data file with data for the proceeding 10 years by November 1, 2021, and submit a supplemental program data file each November 1 thereafter, if applicable. The Department of Children and Families must assist the Center with receiving program information.

The bill requires the Center to provide a report of its analysis to the OEL by May 31 of each year, and within 30 days of receiving the report, the OEL is required to submit it to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The bill requires that parents who have an intensive services account or an individual training account be given priority for participation in the School Readiness program equal to parents receiving temporary cash assistance benefits.

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2021.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 118-0