

By the Committee on Education and Senator Kirkpatrick

304-1768-98

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to trust funds; creating the
3 Early Education and Child Care Trust Fund
4 within the Executive Office of the Governor;
5 providing for sources of moneys and purposes;
6 providing for future review and termination or
7 re-creation of the trust fund; providing a
8 contingent effective date.

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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12 Section 1. The Early Education and Child Care Trust
13 Fund is created in the State Treasury, to be administered by
14 the Executive Office of the Governor. Funds shall be credited
15 to the trust fund as provided in SB 182 or similar
16 legislation, to be used for the purposes set forth therein.

17 Section 2. Funding; Early Education and Child Care
18 Trust Fund.--

19 (1) The intent of the Early Education and Child Care
20 Trust Fund is to ensure a seamless service delivery system for
21 all publicly funded early education and child care programs
22 operating in this state.

23 (2) Funds budgeted for a county for the
24 prekindergarten early intervention program, the subsidized
25 child care program, and other state or locally funded
26 education and care programs for preschool children may be
27 transferred to the Early Education and Child Care Trust Fund
28 for the benefit of the county for implementation of the early
29 education and child care program. Additional funds, including
30 state-appropriated incentive funds, may be placed in the trust
31 fund for purposes of this section.

1 (3) All funds transferred to and retained in the trust
2 fund shall be invested pursuant to section 18.125, Florida
3 Statutes. Any interest accruing to the trust fund shall be for
4 the benefit of counties providing an early education and child
5 care program. Notwithstanding section 216.301, Florida
6 Statutes, and pursuant to section 216.351, Florida Statutes,
7 any undisbursed balance remaining in the trust fund and
8 interest accruing to the trust fund not distributed at the end
9 of the fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund and shall
10 increase the total funds available for the counties
11 implementing an early education and child care program.

12 (4) The School Readiness Coordinating Council shall
13 annually distribute to the fiscal agent in each county the
14 funds that were transferred into the Early Education and Child
15 Care Trust Fund for the benefit of that county. Additional
16 funds and investment income from the trust fund shall be
17 distributed to the counties implementing an early education
18 and child care program based on outcome performance measures
19 or need, or combination thereof. Counties may be required to
20 provide matching funds. The School Readiness Coordinating
21 Council shall provide rewards to counties that serve more
22 children in the early education and child care program than
23 were served through previously existing programs.

24 (5) State funds appropriated for the early education
25 and child care program may not be used for the construction of
26 new facilities, the transportation of students, or the
27 purchase of buses, but may be used for educational field trips
28 that enhance the curriculum.

29 Section 3. It is the intent of the Legislature that
30 section 2 be compiled into section 402.265, Florida Statutes.

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1 Section 4. Pursuant to the provisions of section
2 19(f)(2), Article III of the State Constitution, the Early
3 Education and Child Care Trust Fund shall, unless terminated
4 sooner, be terminated on July 1, 2002. Prior to its scheduled
5 termination, the trust fund shall be reviewed as provided in
6 section 215.3206(1) and (2), Florida Statutes.

7 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998, if
8 SB 182 or similar legislation is adopted in the same
9 legislative session or an extension thereof.

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11 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
12 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
13 SB 180

14 The Committee Substitute differs from SB 180 in the following
15 ways:

16 Deposit of local funds into the trust fund is optional, not
17 mandatory. Prekindergarten and subsidized child care funds are
18 the only local funds specified, though others could be added.

19 State appropriated incentive funds may be deposited in the
20 trust fund as well.

21 The trust fund will be administered by the Executive Office of
22 the Governor instead of the Department of Children and Family
23 Services.

24 The implementing bill is SB 182.

25 The School Readiness Coordinating Council, not the State Board
26 of Governance, will distribute the funds.