

hbd4383-09

Bill No. CS/CS/HB 4383

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_ (for drafter's use only)

	<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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ORIGINAL STAMP BELOW

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Representative(s) Brennan offered the following:

**Amendment (with title amendment)**

Remove from the bill: Everything after the enacting clause  
and insert in lieu thereof:

Section 1. Section 411.09, Florida Statutes, is  
created to read:

411.09 Healthy opportunity for school readiness  
program.--

(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS.--

(a) Current standards for measuring school readiness  
are nonuniform and highly subjective. Measurements by these  
standards indicate that approximately 36,000 or 20 percent of  
Florida children were measured as not ready for school when  
they entered kindergarten in the 1996-1997 school year.

(b) The Florida Partnership for Children First, Inc.,  
is assigned the responsibility under s. 411.01 of providing  
reliable school readiness instruments, which instruments shall  
be administered under the oversight of the Children First  
Coalitions.

1           (c) Numerous credible studies have demonstrated the  
 2 importance of school readiness to a child's success in school,  
 3 and the cost savings, particularly in terms of less dependence  
 4 on specialized services and greater lifelong opportunity,  
 5 achieved in enlarging the percentage of children who attain  
 6 school readiness before they enter school.

7           (d) The public K-12 school system could better perform  
 8 its mission of K-12 education if there were a higher  
 9 percentage of children entering the public K-12 school system  
 10 who were measured as ready for school.

11           (2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is the intent of the  
 12 Legislature to provide a program of enhancement of healthy  
 13 opportunity by increasing school readiness to the maximum  
 14 extent feasible before a child enters the public K-12 school  
 15 system.

16           (3) HEALTHY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM; ELIGIBILITY OF  
 17 CHILD.--The healthy opportunity for school readiness program  
 18 is established and shall be available on a first-come,  
 19 first-served basis to children who are measured no later than  
 20 February of the year in which they will enter kindergarten as  
 21 not ready for school. Participation shall be entirely at the  
 22 option of the parent or guardian.

23           (4) HEALTHY OPPORTUNITY CHARTER KINDERGARTEN.--For the  
 24 purpose of assisting children who are measured as not ready  
 25 for school to attain success in school by enhancing their  
 26 opportunity for school readiness, the Florida Partnership for  
 27 Children First, Inc., shall operate the healthy opportunity  
 28 for school readiness program with the following minimum  
 29 components:

30           (a) Each Children First Coalition, as part of the  
 31 children first plan, shall establish and maintain charter

1 kindergarten program information to provide information and  
 2 assistance to parents or guardians of eligible children who  
 3 wish to enhance their child's opportunity for school readiness  
 4 by choosing a charter kindergarten of the parent's choice.  
 5 Charter kindergartens must be formed under s. 228.056, and  
 6 shall submit information requested by the Children First  
 7 Coalition for purposes of informed parental choice, shall  
 8 agree to the goal of the child attaining school readiness, and  
 9 shall agree to administer the school readiness screening  
 10 instruments.

11 (b) All selections and all enrollment and  
 12 transportation arrangements shall be the parents' or  
 13 guardians' responsibility, but the Children First Coalition  
 14 shall provide full information, including information  
 15 regarding teacher credentials, and adequate guidance and  
 16 assistance to enable the parents or guardians to make a fully  
 17 informed choice and easily facilitated arrangements.

18 (c) The Children First Coalition shall provide for  
 19 followup measurement of the children who participate in the  
 20 program, to measure their school readiness after a year of  
 21 attending a charter kindergarten program and prior to entering  
 22 first grade. The coalition shall annually report to the  
 23 Children First Partnership, using objective data, the  
 24 differences in school readiness, if any, between comparable  
 25 groups of children based on whether or not they attended a  
 26 charter kindergarten.

27 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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30 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

31 And the title is amended as follows:

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1           On page 1, line 4, through page 1, line 9  
2 remove from the title of the bill: all of said lines  
3  
4 and insert in lieu thereof:  
5           opportunity for school readiness program;  
6           providing legislative findings and intent;  
7           providing for operation by the Florida  
8           Partnership for Children First, Inc.; providing  
9           eligibility requirements and program  
10          components; providing an effective date.

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