1   A bill to be entitled

2   An act relating to education; requiring the

3   Department of Children and Family Services and

4   the Department of Education to develop minimum

5   performance standards for all early education

6   and care programs that serve children from

7   birth through 5 years of age; requiring those

8   departments to submit a joint report to the

9   Legislature by October 1, 1997, presenting the

10   performance standards and recommending funding

11   procedures; providing an effective date.

12

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

14

15   Section 1. Performance standards for early childhood

16 education and care programs.--

17   (1) For purposes of this section, the early childhood

18 education and care programs consist of the prekindergarten

19 early-intervention program, the Florida First Start program,

20 the subsidized child care program, the Title I program, the

21 Title I migrant program, the prekindergarten handicapped

22 program, and the teenage parent program.

23   (2) A joint report by the Department of Children and

24 Family Services and the Department of Education shall be

25 submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of

26 the House of Representatives by October 1, 1997, outlining the

27 recommended performance standards. The report must include

28 recommendations for:

29   (a) Providing enhanced funding to communities that

30 have consistently shown that they are maximizing their

31 existing resources to the fullest extent, evidenced through

                                1

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1 local funding collaboratives, multiple contractual

2 arrangements across various programs, federal revenue

3 maximization, and other components as identified by the

4 departments.

5   (b) Providing incentives for individual programs and

6 providers, through grants or increased payment rates, which

7 ensure that families have access to and receive comprehensive

8 services, including, without limitation, a developmentally

9 appropriate educational program, medical and dental health

10 screening and referral services, transportation services for

11 parent and child, mental health services, parent education and

12 parenting-skills training, nutritional services, and parental

13 involvement activities, including parental involvement in

14 program governance.

15   (c) Increasing federal financial participation at the

16 local level, specifically the certification of expenditures in

17 the prekindergarten early-intervention program on children who

18 are eligible for federal participation under Title IV-A of the

19 federal Social Security Act.

20   (d) Specifying the federal waivers that are necessary,

21 and which the departments are pursuing, to achieve the

22 provisions of this section and to accomplish the foregoing

23 recommendations.

24   (e) Providing sanctions for each school district and

25 each health and rehabilitative service district for programs

26 specified in subsection (1) if there is not an established

27 plan toward meeting the minimum set of performance standards

28 and if there is not measurable progress toward meeting the

29 standards.

30   (f) Proposing procedures to develop a local plan to

31 assist each school district in meeting the first state

2

1   education goal, readiness to start school. The procedures
2   must provide guidelines to enable each school board and the
3   health and human services board for the service area of the
4   school district to develop and jointly approve a plan that
5   includes:
6   1. A method to implement the performance standards for
7   early childhood programs developed by the Department of
8   Education and the Department of Children and Family Services;
9   and
10   2. A report of the number of 4-year-old children in
11 the school district who are eligible for a publicly supported
12 preschool program and a schedule for serving all eligible
13 4-year-old children in programs of quality by the 2000-2001
14 school year.
15   Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.
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17   ***
18   SENATE SUMMARY
19   Prescribes performance standards for early childhood
      education and care programs.
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