

By Senator Cowin

11-997-00

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

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

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11 Section 1. The School Readiness Trust Fund is created
12 in the State Treasury, to be administered by the Executive
13 Office of the Governor. Funds shall be credited to the trust
14 fund as provided in SB ____ or similar legislation, 2000
15 Regular Session, to be used for the purposes set forth
16 therein.

17 Section 2. Funding; School Readiness Trust Fund.--

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

22 (2) Funds budgeted for the prekindergarten early
23 intervention program, the subsidized child care program, and
24 other state or locally funded education and care programs for
25 preschool children may be transferred to the School Readiness
26 Trust Fund for implementation of the school readiness
27 programs. Additional funds, including state-appropriated
28 incentive funds, may be placed in the trust fund for purposes
29 of this section.

30 (3) All funds transferred to and retained in the trust
31 fund shall be invested pursuant to section 18.125, Florida

1 Statutes. Any interest accruing to the trust fund shall be for
2 the benefit of school readiness coalitions providing a school
3 readiness program. Notwithstanding section 216.301, Florida
4 Statutes, and pursuant to section 216.351, Florida Statutes,
5 any undisbursed balance remaining in the trust fund and
6 interest accruing to the trust fund not distributed at the end
7 of the fiscal year shall remain in the trust fund and shall
8 increase the total funds available for the coalitions
9 implementing a school readiness program.

10 (4) The Florida Partnership for School Readiness shall
11 annually distribute to the fiscal agent for each school
12 readiness coalition funds from the School Readiness Trust Fund
13 for the benefit of that coalition. Additional funds and
14 investment income from the trust fund shall be distributed to
15 the coalitions implementing school readiness programs based on
16 achievement of performance outcomes or need, or a combination
17 thereof.

18 (5) State funds appropriated for the school readiness
19 program may not be used for the construction of new facilities
20 or the purchase of buses, but may be used for educational
21 field trips that enhance the curriculum.

22 Section 3. Pursuant to the provisions of section
23 19(f)(2), Article III of the State Constitution, the School
24 Readiness Trust Fund shall, unless terminated sooner, be
25 terminated on July 1, 2004. Prior to its scheduled
26 termination, the trust fund shall be reviewed as provided in
27 section 215.3206(1) and (2), Florida Statutes.

28 Section 4. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2000.
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SENATE SUMMARY

Creates the School Readiness Trust Fund within the Executive Office of the Governor. Provides for sources of moneys and purposes. Provides for future review and termination or re-creation of the trust fund.