

By Senator Cowin

11-1100A-00

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to school readiness; amending

3 s. 411.01, F.S.; revising the composition of

4 the Florida Partnership for School Readiness;

5 revising the membership of school readiness

6 coalitions; providing sovereign immunity for

7 school readiness coalitions; changing

8 terminology relating to payment; amending s.

9 230.2305, F.S.; revising funding for

10 prekindergarten early intervention programs;

11 repealing s. 402.3015(6)(a), F.S.; which

12 requires competitive bids for community child

13 care coordinating agencies; providing an

14 effective date.

15

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

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18 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) and

19 paragraphs (a) and (e) of subsection (5) of section 411.01,

20 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

21 411.01 Florida Partnership for School Readiness;

22 school readiness coalitions.--

23 (4) FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOL READINESS.--

24 (b)1. The Florida Partnership for School Readiness

25 shall include the Lieutenant Governor or his or her designee,

26 the Commissioner of Education, the Secretary of Children and

27 Family Services, the Secretary of Health, the chair of the

28 Child Care Executive Partnership Board, and the chairperson of

29 the ~~WAGES Program State~~ Board of Directors of Workforce

30 Florida, Inc.

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1 2. The partnership shall also include 10 members of
2 the public who shall be business, community, and civic leaders
3 in the state who are not elected to public office. These
4 members and their families must not be providers in the early
5 education and child care industry. The members must be
6 geographically and demographically representative of the
7 state. Each member shall be appointed by the Governor. Eight
8 of the members shall be appointed from a list of 10 nominees,
9 of which five must be submitted by the President of the Senate
10 and five must be submitted by the Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives. Members shall be appointed to 4-year terms of
12 office. However, of the initial appointees, two shall be
13 appointed to 1-year terms, two shall be appointed to 2-year
14 terms, three shall be appointed to 3-year terms, and three
15 shall be appointed to 4-year terms. The members of the
16 partnership shall elect a chairperson annually from the
17 nongovernmental members of the partnership. Any vacancy on the
18 partnership shall be filled in the same manner as the original
19 appointment.

20 (5) CREATION OF SCHOOL READINESS COALITIONS.--

21 (a) School readiness coalitions.--

22 1. If a coalition's plan would serve less than 400
23 birth-to-kindergarten age children, the coalition must either
24 join with another county to form a multicounty coalition,
25 enter an agreement with a fiscal agent to serve more than one
26 coalition, or demonstrate to the partnership its ability to
27 effectively and efficiently implement its plan as a
28 single-county coalition and meet all required performance
29 standards and outcome measures.

30 2. Each coalition shall have at least 18 but not more
31 than 25 members and such members must include the following:

1 a. A Department of Children and Family Services
2 district administrator or his or her designee who is
3 authorized to make decisions on behalf of the department.

4 b. A district superintendent of schools of his or her
5 designee who is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the
6 department.

7 c. A regional workforce development board chair or
8 director, where applicable.

9 d. A county health department director or his or her
10 designee.

11 e. A children's services council or juvenile welfare
12 board chair or executive director, if applicable.

13 f. A child care licensing agency head.

14 g. One member appointed by a Department of Children
15 and Family Services district administrator.

16 h. One member appointed by a board of county
17 commissioners.

18 i. One member appointed by a district school board.

19 j. A central child care agency administrator.

20 k. A Head Start director.

21 l. A representative of private child care providers.

22 m. A representative of faith-based child care
23 providers.

24

25 More than one-third of the coalition members must be from the
26 private sector, and neither they nor their families may earn
27 an income from the early education and child care industry. To
28 meet this requirement a coalition must appoint additional
29 members from a list of nominees presented to the coalition by
30 a chamber of commerce or economic development council within
31 the geographic area of the coalition.

1 3. No member of a coalition may appoint a designee to
2 act in his or her place. A member may send a representative to
3 coalition meetings, but that representative will have no
4 voting privileges. When a district superintendent of schools
5 or a district administrator for the Department of Children and
6 Family Services appoints a designee to a school readiness
7 coalition, the designee will be the voting member of the
8 coalition, and any individual attending in his or her place,
9 including the district administrator or superintendent will
10 have no voting privileges.

11 4. The school readiness coalition shall replace the
12 district interagency coordinating council required under s.
13 230.2305.

14 5. Members of the coalition are subject to the ethics
15 provisions in part III of chapter 112.

16 6. For the purposes of tort liability, the members of
17 the school readiness coalition and its employees shall be
18 governed by s. 768.28.

19 ~~7.6.~~ Multicounty coalitions shall include
20 representation from each county.

21 ~~8.7.~~ The terms of all appointed members of the
22 coalition must be staggered. Appointed members may serve a
23 maximum of two terms. When a vacancy occurs in an appointed
24 position, the coalition must advertise the vacancy.

25 (e) Payment schedule ~~Reimbursement rate~~.--Each
26 coalition shall develop a payment ~~reimbursement rate~~ schedule
27 that encompasses all programs funded by that coalition. The
28 payment ~~reimbursement rate~~ schedule must take into
29 consideration the relevant market rate, must include the
30 projected number of children to be served, and must be
31 submitted to the partnership for information. Informal child

1 care arrangements shall be reimbursed at not more than 50
2 percent of the rate developed for family childcare.

3 Section 2. Subsection (6) of section 230.2305, Florida
4 Statutes, is amended to read:

5 230.2305 Prekindergarten early intervention program.--

6 (6) FUNDING.--

7 (a) This section shall be implemented only to the
8 extent that funding is available. State funds appropriated
9 for the prekindergarten early intervention program may not be
10 used for the construction of new facilities, the
11 transportation of students, or the purchase of buses, but may
12 be used for educational field trips which enhance the
13 curriculum.

14 1. At least 70 percent of the total funds allocated to
15 each school readiness coalition ~~district~~ under this section
16 must be used for implementing and conducting a prekindergarten
17 early intervention program or contracting with other public or
18 nonpublic entities for programs to serve eligible children.
19 The maximum amount to be spent per child for this purpose is
20 to be designated annually by the Florida Partnership for
21 School Readiness ~~in the General Appropriations Act.~~

22 2. No more than 30 percent of the funds allocated to
23 each school readiness coalition ~~under district pursuant to~~
24 this section may be used to enhance existing public and
25 nonpublic programs for eligible children, to provide
26 before-school and after-school care for children served under
27 this section, to remodel or renovate existing facilities under
28 chapter 235, to lease or lease-purchase facilities, to
29 purchase classroom equipment to allow the implementation of
30 the prekindergarten early intervention program, and to provide
31 training for program teachers and administrative personnel

1 ~~employed by the school district and by agencies with which the~~
2 ~~school district contracts for the provision of prekindergarten~~
3 ~~services.~~

4 3. Funds may also be used pursuant to subparagraphs 1.
5 and 2. to provide the prekindergarten early intervention
6 program for more than 180 school days.

7 (b) A minimum grant for each school readiness
8 coalition district is to be determined annually by the Florida
9 Partnership for School Readiness in the General Appropriations
10 Act. The funds remaining after allocating the minimum grants
11 must be prorated based on an allocation factor for each
12 coalition district and must be added to each coalition's
13 ~~district's~~ minimum grant. The allocation factor is to be
14 calculated as follows:

<u>Coalition District</u>		<u>School district</u>	
percentage of state	x 1/4	+percentage	x 3/4
3-year-old and		of state total free	
4-year-old children		lunches served	

21 The calculation of each coalition's ~~district's~~ allocation
22 factor is to be based upon the official estimate of the total
23 number of 3-year-old and 4-year-old children by the school
24 district or districts in the coalition's service area and the
25 official record of the Department of Education for K-12
26 student total free lunches served by school district for the
27 prior fiscal year.

28 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section
29 402.3015, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

30 Section 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
31 law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Revises the composition of the Florida Partnership for School Readiness and the membership of school readiness coalitions. Provides sovereign immunity for school readiness coalitions and their employees with respect to any liability beyond the limit on the waiver of sovereign immunity prescribed in s. 768.28, F.S. Revises funding for prekindergarten early intervention programs. Eliminates a competitive bid requirement for community child care coordinating agencies.