

By Senator Silver

38-1531-02

See HB

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to child care; amending s.  
3           402.3131, F.S.; increasing the introductory  
4           course requirement for operators of large  
5           family child care homes; providing for  
6           community college credit; amending s. 402.305,  
7           F.S.; revising minimum training requirements  
8           for child care personnel and operators of  
9           family day care homes; increasing the  
10          introductory course requirement; providing  
11          additional training topics; requiring a  
12          competency examination upon successful  
13          completion of the required training; providing  
14          for community college credit; providing an  
15          automatic exemption from certain training for  
16          personnel with a bachelor's degree in specified  
17          areas; providing an effective date.

18  
19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20  
21           Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 402.3131, Florida  
22 Statutes, is amended to read:

23           402.3131 Large family child care homes.--

24           (3) Operators of large family child care homes shall  
25 take an approved 45-clock-hour ~~40-clock-hour~~ introductory  
26 course in group child care. Successful completion of the  
27 45-clock-hour introductory course shall articulate into 3  
28 hours of community college credit in early childhood  
29 education.

30           Section 2. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section  
31 402.305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1           402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.--  
2           (2) PERSONNEL.--Minimum standards for child care  
3 personnel shall include minimum requirements as to:  
4           (d) Minimum training requirements for child care  
5 personnel.  
6           1. Such minimum standards for training shall ensure  
7 that all child care personnel and operators of family day care  
8 homes ~~servicing at-risk children in a subsidized child care~~  
9 ~~program pursuant to s. 402.3015~~ take an approved 45-clock-hour  
10 ~~40-clock-hour~~ introductory course in child care, which course  
11 covers at least the following topic areas:  
12           a. State and local rules and regulations which govern  
13 child care.  
14           b. Health, safety, and nutrition.  
15           c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.  
16           d. Child development, including typical and atypical  
17 language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills  
18 development.  
19           e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including  
20 using a checklist or other similar observation tools and  
21 techniques to determine the child's developmental age level.  
22           f. Brain research and computer technology.  
23           g.f. Specialized areas, as determined by the  
24 department, for owner-operators and child care personnel of a  
25 child care facility.  
26  
27 Within 90 days after ~~of~~ employment, child care personnel shall  
28 begin training to meet the training requirements. Child care  
29 personnel ~~and~~ shall successfully complete such training within  
30 1 year after ~~of~~ the date on which the training began, as  
31 evidenced by passage of a competency examination. Successful

1 completion of the 45-clock-hour introductory course shall  
2 articulate into 3 hours of community college credit in early  
3 childhood education. Exemption from all or a portion of the  
4 required training shall be granted to child care personnel  
5 based upon educational credentials or passage of competency  
6 examinations. Child care personnel holding a bachelor's degree  
7 in early childhood or child development shall be automatically  
8 exempted from the training requirements in subparagraphs b.,  
9 d., and e.

10           2. The introductory course in child care shall stress,  
11 to the extent possible, an interdisciplinary approach to the  
12 study of children.

13           3. On an annual basis in order to further their child  
14 care skills and, if appropriate, administrative skills, child  
15 care personnel who have fulfilled the requirements for the  
16 child care training shall be required to take an additional  
17 approved 8 clock hours of inservice training or an equivalent  
18 as determined by the department.

19           4. Procedures for ensuring the training of qualified  
20 child care professionals to provide training of child care  
21 personnel, including onsite training, shall be included in the  
22 minimum standards. It is recommended that the state community  
23 child care coordination agencies (central agencies) be  
24 contracted by the department to coordinate such training when  
25 possible. Other district educational resources, such as  
26 community colleges and vocational-technical programs, can be  
27 designated in such areas where central agencies may not exist  
28 or are determined not to have the capability to meet the  
29 coordination requirements set forth by the department.

30           5. Training requirements shall not apply to certain  
31 occasional or part-time support staff, including, but not

