By Senator Silver

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38-1531-02
                                                             See HB
                        A bill to be entitled
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           An act relating to child care; amending s.
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           402.3131, F.S.; increasing the introductory
           course requirement for operators of large
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           family child care homes; providing for
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           community college credit; amending s. 402.305,
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           F.S.; revising minimum training requirements
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           for child care personnel and operators of
           family day care homes; increasing the
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           introductory course requirement; providing
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           additional training topics; requiring a
           competency examination upon successful
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           completion of the required training; providing
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           for community college credit; providing an
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           automatic exemption from certain training for
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           personnel with a bachelor's degree in specified
           areas; providing an effective date.
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   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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           Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 402.3131, Florida
   Statutes, is amended to read:
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           402.3131 Large family child care homes.--
           (3) Operators of large family child care homes shall
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    take an approved 45-clock-hour 40-clock-hour introductory
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    course in group child care. Successful completion of the
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    45-clock-hour introductory course shall articulate into 3
   hours of community college credit in early childhood
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    education.
           Section 2. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section
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    402.305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
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1 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.--

- (2) PERSONNEL.--Minimum standards for child care personnel shall include minimum requirements as to:
- (d) Minimum training requirements for child care personnel.
- 1. Such minimum standards for training shall ensure that all child care personnel and operators of family day care homes serving at-risk children in a subsidized child care program pursuant to s. 402.3015 take an approved 45-clock-hour 40-clock-hour introductory course in child care, which course covers at least the following topic areas:
- a. State and local rules and regulations which govern child care.
 - b. Health, safety, and nutrition.
 - c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.
- d. Child development, including typical and atypical language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills development.
- e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to determine the child's developmental age level.
 - f. Brain research and computer technology.
- g.f. Specialized areas, as determined by the department, for owner-operators and child care personnel of a child care facility.

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Within 90 days <u>after</u> of employment, child care personnel shall begin training to meet the training requirements. Child care <u>personnel</u> and shall <u>successfully</u> complete such training within 1 year <u>after</u> of the date on which the training began, as evidenced by passage of a competency examination. Successful

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

- 2. The introductory course in child care shall stress, to the extent possible, an interdisciplinary approach to the study of children.
- 3. On an annual basis in order to further their child care skills and, if appropriate, administrative skills, child care personnel who have fulfilled the requirements for the child care training shall be required to take an additional approved 8 clock hours of inservice training or an equivalent as determined by the department.
- 4. Procedures for ensuring the training of qualified child care professionals to provide training of child care personnel, including onsite training, shall be included in the minimum standards. It is recommended that the state community child care coordination agencies (central agencies) be contracted by the department to coordinate such training when possible. Other district educational resources, such as community colleges and vocational-technical programs, can be designated in such areas where central agencies may not exist or are determined not to have the capability to meet the coordination requirements set forth by the department.
- Training requirements shall not apply to certain 31 occasional or part-time support staff, including, but not

limited to, swimming instructors, piano teachers, dance instructors, and gymnastics instructors.

- The State Coordinating Council for School Readiness Programs, in coordination with the department, shall evaluate or contract for an evaluation for the general purpose of determining the status of and means to improve staff training requirements and testing procedures. The evaluation shall be completed by October 1, 1992, and conducted every 2 years thereafter. The evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, determining the availability, quality, scope, and sources of current staff training; determining the need for specialty training; and determining ways to increase inservice training and ways to increase the accessibility, quality, and cost-effectiveness of current and proposed staff training. The evaluation methodology shall include a reliable and valid survey of child care personnel.
- The child care operator shall be required to take basic training in serving children with disabilities within 5 years after employment, either as a part of the introductory training or the annual 8 hours of inservice training.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

Increases from 40 to 45 clock hours the introductory training course requirement for operators of large family child care homes and for child care personnel and operators of family day care homes. Provides for community college credit in early childhood education for such coursework. Revises minimum training requirements for child care personnel and operators of family day care homes to include training in brain research and computer technology. Requires a competency examination for such 26 27 28 29 technology. Requires a competency examination for such personnel upon successful completion of the required training. Provides an automatic exemption from certain training requirements for personnel with a bachelor's degree in early childhood or child development. 30

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.