

By the Committee on Children and Families; and Senator Silver

300-1890A-02

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; increasing the
 9 introductory course requirement; providing
 10 additional training topics; requiring a
 11 competency examination upon successful
 12 completion of the required training; providing
 13 for community college credit; providing an
 14 automatic exemption from certain training
 15 requirements for personnel having specified
 16 degrees, credentials, courses or waivers in
 17 specified areas; amending s. 402.313, F.S.;
 18 requiring a competency examination upon
 19 successful completion of the required training;
 20 providing for the Department of Children and
 21 Family Services to establish standards for
 22 training for family day care homes; providing
 23 an effective date.

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

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 27 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 402.3131, Florida
 28 Statutes, is amended to read:

29 402.3131 Large family child care homes.--

30 (3) Operators of large family child care homes must
 31 successfully complete ~~shall take~~ an approved 45-clock-hour

1 ~~40-clock-hour~~ introductory course in group child care, as
2 evidenced by passage of a competency examination. Successful
3 completion of the 45-clock-hour introductory course shall
4 articulate into community college credit in early childhood
5 education, as approved by the Articulation Coordinating
6 Committee pursuant to s. 229.551(1)(c).

7 Section 2. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section
8 402.305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

9 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.--

10 (2) PERSONNEL.--Minimum standards for child care
11 personnel shall include minimum requirements as to:

12 (d) Minimum training requirements for child care
13 personnel.

14 1. Such minimum standards for training shall ensure
15 that all child care personnel ~~and operators of family day care~~
16 ~~homes serving at-risk children in a subsidized child care~~
17 ~~program pursuant to s. 402.3015~~ take an approved 45-clock-hour
18 ~~40-clock-hour~~ introductory course in child care, which course
19 covers at least the following topic areas:

20 a. State and local rules and regulations which govern
21 child care.

22 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

23 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

24 d. Child development, including typical and atypical
25 language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills
26 development.

27 e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including
28 using a checklist or other similar observation tools and
29 techniques to determine the child's developmental age level.

30 f. Brain research and computer technology for
31 professional and classroom use.

1 ~~g.f.~~ Specialized areas, as determined by the
2 department, for owner-operators and child care personnel of a
3 child care facility.

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5 Within 90 days after ~~of~~ employment, child care personnel shall
6 begin training to meet the training requirements. Child care
7 personnel ~~and~~ shall successfully complete such training within
8 1 year after ~~of~~ the date on which the training began, as
9 evidenced by passage of a competency examination. Successful
10 completion of the 45-clock-hour introductory course shall
11 articulate into community college credit in early childhood
12 education, as approved by the Articulation Coordinating
13 Committee, pursuant to s. 229.551(1) and (2). Exemption from
14 all or a portion of the required training shall be granted to
15 child care personnel based upon educational credentials or
16 passage of competency examinations. Childcare personnel
17 possessing a 2-year degree or higher which includes 6 college
18 credit hours in early-childhood development or child growth
19 and development, or a child-development-associate credential
20 or an equivalent state-approved child-development-associate
21 credential, or a child-development-associate waiver
22 certificate shall be automatically exempted from the training
23 requirements in sub-subparagraphs b., d., and e.

24 2. The introductory course in child care shall stress,
25 to the extent possible, an interdisciplinary approach to the
26 study of children.

27 3. On an annual basis in order to further their child
28 care skills and, if appropriate, administrative skills, child
29 care personnel who have fulfilled the requirements for the
30 child care training shall be required to take an additional
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1 approved 8 clock hours of inservice training or an equivalent
2 as determined by the department.

3 4. Procedures for ensuring the training of qualified
4 child care professionals to provide training of child care
5 personnel, including onsite training, shall be included in the
6 minimum standards. It is recommended that the state community
7 child care coordination agencies (central agencies) be
8 contracted by the department to coordinate such training when
9 possible. Other district educational resources, such as
10 community colleges and vocational-technical programs, can be
11 designated in such areas where central agencies may not exist
12 or are determined not to have the capability to meet the
13 coordination requirements set forth by the department.

14 5. Training requirements shall not apply to certain
15 occasional or part-time support staff, including, but not
16 limited to, swimming instructors, piano teachers, dance
17 instructors, and gymnastics instructors.

18 6. The department ~~State Coordinating Council for~~
19 ~~School Readiness Programs, in coordination with the~~
20 ~~department,~~ shall evaluate or contract for an evaluation for
21 the general purpose of determining the status of and means to
22 improve staff training requirements and testing procedures.
23 The evaluation shall be ~~completed by October 1, 1992, and~~
24 ~~conducted every 2 years thereafter.~~ The evaluation shall
25 include, but not be limited to, determining the availability,
26 quality, scope, and sources of current staff training;
27 determining the need for specialty training; and determining
28 ways to increase inservice training and ways to increase the
29 accessibility, quality, and cost-effectiveness of current and
30 proposed staff training. The evaluation methodology shall
31 include a reliable and valid survey of child care personnel.

1 7. The child care operator shall be required to take
2 basic training in serving children with disabilities within 5
3 years after employment, either as a part of the introductory
4 training or the annual 8 hours of inservice training.

5 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and
6 subsections (4) and (10) of section 402.313, Florida Statutes,
7 are amended to read:

8 402.313 Family day care homes.--

9 (1) Family day care homes shall be licensed under this
10 act if they are presently being licensed under an existing
11 county licensing ordinance, if they are participating in the
12 subsidized child care program, or if the board of county
13 commissioners passes a resolution that family day care homes
14 be licensed. If no county authority exists for the licensing
15 of a family day care home, the department shall have the
16 authority to license family day care homes under contract for
17 the purchase-of-service system in the subsidized child care
18 program.

19 (a) If not subject to license, family day care homes
20 shall register annually with the department, providing the
21 following information:

- 22 1. The name and address of the home.
- 23 2. The name of the operator.
- 24 3. The number of children served.
- 25 4. Proof of a written plan to provide at least one
26 other competent adult to be available to substitute for the
27 operator in an emergency. This plan shall include the name,
28 address, and telephone number of the designated substitute.
- 29 5. Proof of screening and background checks.

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1 6. Proof of successful completion of the 30-hour
2 training course, as evidenced by passage of a competency
3 examination, which shall include:

4 a. State and local rules and regulations that govern
5 child care.

6 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

7 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

8 d. Child development, including typical and atypical
9 language development; and cognitive, motor, social, and
10 self-help skills development.

11 e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including
12 using a checklist or other similar observation tools and
13 techniques to determine a child's developmental level.

14 f. Specialized areas, as determined by the department,
15 for owner-operators of family day care homes.

16 7. Proof that immunization records are kept current.

17 (4) Operators of family day care homes must
18 successfully complete ~~shall take~~ an approved 30-clock-hour
19 introductory course in child care, as evidenced by passage of
20 a competency examination. Family day care homes licensed or
21 registered on June 30, 1999, shall have until June 30, 2001,
22 to comply with this course requirement, except that the
23 department shall exempt family day care homes in this category
24 that can demonstrate that the operator has received at least
25 30 hours of training. Family day care homes initially licensed
26 or registered on or after July 1, 1999, but before October 1,
27 1999, shall have until October 1, 1999, to comply with the
28 30-clock-hour course requirement. Family day care homes
29 initially licensed or registered on or after October 1, 1999,
30 must comply with the 30-clock-hour course requirement before
31 caring for children.

1 (10) The department shall, by rule, establish minimum
2 standards for family day care homes that are required to be
3 licensed by county licensing ordinance or county licensing
4 resolution or that voluntarily choose to be licensed. The
5 standards should include requirements for staffing, training,
6 maintenance of immunization records, minimum health standards,
7 reduced standards for the regulation of child care during
8 evening hours by municipalities and counties, and enforcement
9 of standards.

10 Section 4. The Department of Children and Family
11 Services may modify the 45-hour introductory course to meet
12 the requirements of articulating the course to community
13 college credit. Any modification must continue to provide that
14 the course satisfies the requirements of section
15 402.305(2)(d), Florida Statutes.

16 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.
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1 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
2 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
3 Senate Bill 1550
4 Modifies the articulation of the introductory child care
5 course to community college credit to eliminate the designated
6 number of community college credit hours the introductory
7 course will provide and to require the approval of the
8 Articulation Coordinating Committee.
9 Specifies that successful completion of the coursework for
10 operators of large family child care homes requires passage of
11 the competency examination.
12 Eliminates the requirement that operators of family child care
13 homes take the 45-hour introductory child care course.
14 Specifies that the computer technology topic area being added
15 to the introductory course will focus on computer technology
16 for professional and classroom use.
17 Modifies the requirement for exempting certain course modules
18 to require a 2-year degree or a child development associate,
19 including the approved equivalency programs or waivers,
20 instead of a bachelor's degree.
21 Removes reference to the State Coordinating Council for School
22 Readiness Programs which no longer exists.
23 Adds that successful completion of the training course for
24 family child care home operators requires passage of a
25 competency examination.
26 Permits the Department of Children and Families to include
27 requirements for training in the family child care home
28 standards.
29 Permits the Department of Children and Families to use a
30 portion of the added 5 hours to modify the entire 45-hour
31 introductory course in order to meet the requirements for
 articulation.