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A bill to be entitled
 An act relating to the safety of children; providing a popular name; providing legislative intent; requiring certain children to be enrolled in an early education or child care program; providing attendance and reporting responsibilities of the child's parent or guardian and of the Family Safety Program Office of the Department of Children and Family Services; requiring law enforcement agencies to investigate certain reports; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Rilya Wilson Act; legislative intent; requirements; attendance and reporting responsibilities.--

(1) POPULAR NAME.--This act shall be known by the popular name the "Rilya Wilson Act."

(2) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--The Legislature recognizes that children who are clients of the Family Safety Program Office of the Department of Children and Family Services due to abuse, neglect, or exploitation are at increased risk of poor school performance and other behavioral and social problems. It is the intent of the Legislature that children who are currently clients of the Family Safety Program Office of the Department of Children and Family Services be provided with an age-appropriate education program to help ameliorate the negative consequences of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.--A child who is between the age of 3 years old and school-entry age who is a client of the Family Safety Program Office of the Department of Children and Family



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31 Services due to abuse, neglect, or exploitation must be enrolled
32 in a licensed public or private early education or child care
33 program and must receive age-appropriate services 5 days a week.
34 The child's parent, legal guardian, or foster parent must select
35 the program that meets their needs and preferences in any
36 licensed public or private early education or child care
37 program.

38 (4) ATTENDANCE AND REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES.--

39 (a) A child who has been placed in a licensed public or
40 private early education or child care program under this section
41 may not be withdrawn from the program without the prior approval
42 of the Family Safety Program Office of the Department of
43 Children and Family Services.

44 (b) A child who is covered by this act shall attend the
45 licensed public or private early education or child care program
46 5 days per week.

47 (c)1. If a child who is covered by this act is absent from
48 the program on any day when he or she is supposed to be present,
49 the child's parent, legal guardian, or foster parent must report
50 the absence to the program by the end of the program day. If the
51 parent, legal guardian, or foster parent fails to timely report
52 the absence, the absence is considered to be unexcused. A
53 licensed public or private early education or child care program
54 shall report any unexcused absence of a child who is enrolled in
55 the program and is covered by this act to the Family Safety
56 Program Office of the Department of Children and Family Services
57 by the end of the program day during which the child is absent.

58 2. The failure of a parent, guardian, or foster parent to
59 report two consecutive absences shall result in appropriate
60 intervention by the Family Safety Program Office.



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61 3. Five consecutive unexcused absences constitute an
62 unapproved withdrawal that the Family Safety Program Office of
63 the Department of Children and Family Services must report to
64 the appropriate law enforcement agency, which shall investigate
65 the matter as a missing person report.

66 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.