

Amendment No. (for drafter's use only)

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Representative Barreiro offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the enacting clause, and insert:

Section 1. Voluntary universal prekindergarten education program.--

(1) The voluntary universal prekindergarten education program shall provide a high-quality prekindergarten learning opportunity in the form of early childhood development and education which is voluntary and free for every child in this state who is 4 years of age. The program must be organized, designed, and delivered in accordance with s. 1(b) and (c), Art. IX of the State Constitution. Except as otherwise expressly provided by law, ss. 411.01-411.011, Florida Statutes, do not apply to the voluntary universal prekindergarten education program.

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28 (2) The State Board of Education shall conduct a study on
29 the curriculum, design, and standards for the voluntary
30 universal prekindergarten education program. By October 1, 2003,
31 the State Board of Education shall submit a report to the
32 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
33 House of Representatives. The Agency for Workforce Innovation
34 and the Florida Partnership for School Readiness shall provide
35 any necessary information and coordinate with the state board.
36 The report must include the recommendations or options of the
37 state board on each of the following program elements:

38 (a) Curriculum and standards.--Developmentally appropriate
39 curriculum and standards that provide children a high-quality
40 prekindergarten learning opportunity. These curriculum and
41 standards must be designed to:

42 1. Address and enhance each child's ability to make age-
43 appropriate progress;

44 2. Provide early childhood development of language and
45 cognitive capabilities;

46 3. Provide education in basic skills and other appropriate
47 skills; and

48 4. Deliver early childhood development and education
49 according to professionally accepted standards.

50 (b) High-quality learning opportunity.--Quality standards
51 that provide children a high-quality prekindergarten learning
52 opportunity. These quality standards must include specific
53 recommendations or options for the expected outcomes of the
54 voluntary universal prekindergarten education program.

55 (c) Quantity of instruction.--Standards for the quantity
56 of instruction to be provided as voluntary and free for every

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57 child in the state who is 4 years of age. These standards must
58 include specific recommendations or options for each of the
59 following elements:

60 1. Hours per day; and

61 2. Days per year.

62 (d) Delivery system.--Standards for providers in order to
63 deliver children a high-quality prekindergarten learning
64 opportunity. These standards must include specific
65 recommendations or options for each of the following elements:

66 1. Appropriate range of settings, including both public
67 and private providers, with consideration of the capacity in
68 each available setting;

69 2. Licensing or regulatory requirements for providers;

70 3. Health and safety requirements for providers; and

71 4. Parental choice.

72 (e) Assessment and evaluation.--Methods for measuring the
73 performance of the voluntary universal prekindergarten education
74 program. These methods must include specific recommendations or
75 options for each of the following elements:

76 1. Assessment of age-appropriate progress for each child;

77 2. Evaluation of outcome measures for each provider in
78 each setting; and

79 3. Evaluation of school readiness coalitions.

80 (f) Funding.--Estimated cost per full-time-equivalent
81 child of the recommended curriculum, design, and standards. This
82 cost estimate must consider funding for each of the state
83 board's recommendations or options for each of the program
84 elements described in this subsection.

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85 (3) The report must also include the state board's
86 recommendations or options for best practices to improve the
87 outcomes of school readiness coalitions and providers.

88 Section 2. Audits.--

89 (1) Performance Audit.--The Office of Program Policy
90 Analysis and Government Accountability shall conduct a
91 performance audit of the school readiness programs administered
92 by the Florida Partnership for School Readiness, the Agency for
93 Workforce Innovation, and the school readiness coalitions for
94 fiscal years 2000-2001, 2001-2002, and 2002-2003. The audit
95 shall reassess the implementation, efficiency, and outcomes of
96 the school readiness programs and shall examine the progress
97 achieved by the Florida Partnership for School Readiness and the
98 school readiness coalitions in response to the office's findings
99 and recommendations reported under s. 411.01(11), Florida
100 Statutes. The office shall also:

101 (a) Monitor the study conducted by the State Board of
102 Education on the voluntary universal prekindergarten education
103 program;

104 (b) Evaluate the ability of the school readiness system to
105 effectively implement the voluntary universal prekindergarten
106 education program based upon the state board's recommendations
107 or options for curriculum, design, and standards for the
108 program; and

109 (c) Identify modifications or options for the school
110 readiness system necessary to effectively implement the
111 voluntary universal prekindergarten education program.

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113 A report of the audit's findings and recommendations or options
114 shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
115 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 15,
116 2004.

117 (2) Financial and Operational Audit.--The Auditor General
118 shall conduct a financial and operational audit of the school
119 readiness programs administered by the Florida Partnership for
120 School Readiness, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, and the
121 school readiness coalitions for fiscal years 2000-2001, 2001-
122 2002, and 2002-2003. The Auditor General shall also examine
123 compliance with state and federal law and with rules adopted by
124 the Florida Partnership for School Readiness and shall review
125 implementation of the school readiness plans for compliance with
126 the approved plans. A report of the audit's findings and
127 recommendations or options shall be submitted to the Governor,
128 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
129 Representatives by January 15, 2004.

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131 While the audits are being conducted pursuant to this section,
132 local school readiness coalitions shall refrain from initiating
133 new long-term fiscal commitments.

134 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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138 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

139 Remove the entire title, and insert:
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142 A bill to be entitled
143 An act relating to school readiness programs; implementing
144 s. 1(b) and (c), Art. IX of the State Constitution;
145 creating the voluntary universal prekindergarten education
146 program; limiting the application of provisions relating
147 to school readiness programs; requiring the State Board of
148 Education to submit a report with recommendations or
149 options for the curriculum, design, and standards of the
150 voluntary universal prekindergarten education program;
151 directing the Office of Program Policy Analysis and
152 Government Accountability and the Auditor General to
153 conduct audits and submit reports to the Governor and
154 Legislature; providing an effective date.