



HB 0571

2003

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to governmental reorganization;
3 transferring the school readiness services system within
4 the Agency for Workforce Innovation to the Executive
5 Office of the Governor; transferring the responsibilities
6 for regulating and licensing child care facilities from
7 the Department of Children and Family Services to the
8 Department of Business and Professional Regulation;
9 providing legislative intent with respect to funding
10 school readiness and prekindergarten programs; amending
11 ss. 411.01 and 411.0105, F.S., relating to the Florida
12 Partnership for School Readiness, the Early Learning
13 Opportunities Act, and the Even Start Family Literacy
14 Programs; conforming provisions to changes made by the
15 act; amending s. 402.302, F.S.; revising definitions;
16 amending s. 402.3025, F.S.; requiring the Department of
17 Education to adopt a uniform curriculum for children in
18 child care programs; requiring standards and curriculum
19 for promoting reading readiness; requiring a program of
20 literacy assistance for parents of preschool children;
21 providing legislative intent with respect to funding
22 programs for preschool children; amending s. 402.30501,
23 F.S.; authorizing the Department of Education to modify
24 certain child care courses; amending s. 402.3115, F.S.;
25 requiring the Department of Business and Professional
26 Regulation to work with local governmental agencies to
27 eliminate duplicative inspections of child care
28 facilities; providing an effective date.

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



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Section 1. (1) The school readiness services system provided under s. 20.50(2)(c), Florida Statutes, is transferred from the Agency for Workforce Innovation to the Executive Office of the Governor by a type two transfer, as provided in s. 20.06(2), Florida Statutes.

(2) The regulation and licensure of child care facilities under ss. 402.301-402.319, Florida Statutes, is transferred from the Department of Children and Family Services to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation by a type two transfer, as provided in s. 20.06(2), Florida Statutes.

Section 2. It is the intent of the Legislature that:

(1) The school readiness program that serves children from birth to 4 years of age shall develop a unified funding formula that considers all available funds that can be funneled into a single funding stream.

(2) The prekindergarten program that serves children who are 4 years of age shall receive allocations of state funds based on an equitable funding formula that is based on the number of children served.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4), paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (9), and subsection (10) of section 411.01, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

411.01 Florida Partnership for School Readiness; school readiness coalitions.--

(4) FLORIDA PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOL READINESS.--

(a) The Florida Partnership for School Readiness was created to fulfill three major purposes: to administer school readiness program services that help parents prepare eligible children for school; to coordinate the provision of school



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61 readiness services on a full-day, full-year, full-choice basis
62 to the extent possible in order to enable parents to work and be
63 financially self-sufficient; and to establish a uniform
64 screening instrument to be implemented by the Department of
65 Education and administered by the school districts upon entry
66 into kindergarten to assess the readiness for school of all
67 children. Readiness for kindergarten is the outcome measure of
68 the success of each school readiness program that receives state
69 or federal funds. The partnership is assigned to the Executive
70 Office of the Governor ~~Agency for Workforce Innovation~~ for
71 administrative purposes.

72 (9) FUNDING; SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM.--

73 (b) Notwithstanding s. 20.50:

74 1. The Executive Office of the Governor ~~Agency for~~
75 ~~Workforce Innovation~~ shall administer school readiness funds,
76 plans, and policies pursuant to the contract with the Florida
77 Partnership for School Readiness and shall prepare and submit a
78 unified budget request for the school readiness program in
79 accordance with chapter 216.

80 2. All instructions to local school readiness coalitions
81 shall emanate from the Executive Office of the Governor ~~Agency~~
82 ~~for Workforce Innovation~~ pursuant to policies of the
83 Legislature, plans of the Florida Partnership for School
84 Readiness, and the contract between the Florida Partnership for
85 School Readiness and the Executive Office of the Governor
86 ~~agency~~.

87 (c) The Executive Office of the Governor ~~Agency for~~
88 ~~Workforce Innovation~~ shall prepare a plan that provides for the
89 distribution and expenditure of all state and federal school
90 readiness funds for children participating in public or private



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91 school readiness programs based upon an equity and performance
92 funding formula. The plan shall be submitted to the Governor and
93 the Legislative Budget Commission. Upon approval, the
94 Legislative Budget Commission shall authorize the transfer of
95 funds to the Executive Office of the Governor ~~Agency for~~
96 ~~Workforce Innovation~~ for distribution in accordance with the
97 provisions of the formula.

98 (10) SCHOOL READINESS UNIFORM SCREENING.--The Department
99 of Education shall implement a school readiness uniform
100 screening, including a pilot program during the 2001-2002 school
101 year, to validate the system recommended by the Florida
102 Partnership for School Readiness as part of a comprehensive
103 evaluation design. Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, the
104 department shall require that all school districts administer
105 the school readiness uniform screening to each kindergarten
106 student in the district school system upon the student's entry
107 into kindergarten. Children who enter public school for the
108 first time in first grade must undergo a uniform screening
109 adopted for use in first grade. The department shall incorporate
110 school readiness data into the K-20 data warehouse for
111 longitudinal tracking. Notwithstanding s. 1002.22, the
112 department shall provide the partnership and the Executive
113 Office of the Governor ~~Agency for Workforce Innovation~~ with
114 complete and full access to kindergarten uniform screening data
115 at the student, school, district, and state levels in a format
116 that will enable the partnership and the Executive Office of the
117 Governor ~~agency~~ to prepare reports needed by state policymakers
118 and local school readiness coalitions to access progress toward
119 school readiness goals and provide input for continuous
120 improvement of local school readiness services and programs.



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121 Section 4. Section 411.0105, Florida Statutes, is amended
 122 to read:

123 411.0105 Early Learning Opportunities Act and Even Start
 124 Family Literacy Programs; lead agency.--For purposes of
 125 administration of the Early Learning Opportunities Act and the
 126 Even Start Family Literacy Programs, pursuant to Pub. L. No.
 127 106-554, the Executive Office of the Governor ~~Agency for~~
 128 ~~Workforce Innovation~~ is designated as the lead agency and must
 129 comply with lead agency responsibilities pursuant to federal
 130 law.

131 Section 5. Subsections (4) and (14) of section 402.302,
 132 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

133 402.302 Definitions.--

134 (4) "Department" means the Department of Business and
 135 Professional Regulation ~~Children and Family Services~~.

136 (14) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Business and
 137 Professional Regulation ~~Children and Family Services~~.

138 Section 6. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (1) of
 139 section 402.3025, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph
 140 (e) is added to that subsection, to read:

141 402.3025 Public and nonpublic schools.--For the purposes
 142 of ss. 402.301-402.319, the following shall apply:

143 (1) PUBLIC SCHOOLS.--

144 (c) The Department ~~State Board~~ of Education shall adopt
 145 rules to implement this subsection, including a uniform
 146 curriculum standards for programs in subparagraphs (a)2. and 3.,
 147 which takes into account ~~recognize~~ the vulnerability of children
 148 under 5 years of age and make special provisions to ensure their
 149 health and safety. Such rules shall include, but not be limited
 150 to, ~~facilities~~, personnel staffing and qualifications,



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151 transportation, and health and safety practices. In preparing
152 such rules, the Commissioner of Education shall review the
153 standards already existing in the state and the recommendations
154 of appropriate professional and accreditation agencies.

155 (d) The Department of Education shall monitor and enforce
156 ~~monitoring and enforcement of~~ compliance with age-appropriate
157 standards established by rule of ~~the State Board of Education~~
158 ~~shall be the responsibility of~~ the Department of Education. The
159 rules shall provide age-appropriate standards and a curriculum
160 for promoting early childhood preparation for reading. The
161 curriculum shall provide for activities that nurture development
162 stages and foster brain development so that a child is ready to
163 learn to read and is able to read at or above grade level after
164 reaching grade one.

165 (e) The Department of Education shall adopt rules for a
166 program to offer literacy assistance to parents of preschool
167 children. The program shall be designed to increase parents'
168 training for and involvement in their children's preschool
169 education and to provide family literacy activities.

170 Section 7. It is the intent of the Legislature that the
171 funds allocated for child care and school readiness in birth-to-
172 4-year-old programs be combined whenever possible.

173 Section 8. Section 402.30501, Florida Statutes, is amended
174 to read:

175 402.30501 Modification of introductory child care course
176 for community college credit authorized.--The Department of
177 Education Children and Family Services may modify the 40-clock-
178 hour introductory course in child care under s. 402.305 or s.
179 402.3131 to meet the requirements of articulating the course to
180 community college credit. Any modification must continue to



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181 provide that the course satisfies the requirements of s.
 182 402.305(2)(d).

183 Section 9. Section 402.3115, Florida Statutes, is amended
 184 to read:

185 402.3115 Elimination of duplicative and unnecessary
 186 inspections; abbreviated inspections.--The Department of
 187 Business and Professional Regulation ~~Children and Family~~
 188 ~~Services~~ and local governmental agencies that license child care
 189 facilities shall develop and implement a plan to eliminate
 190 duplicative and unnecessary inspections of child care
 191 facilities. In addition, the department and the local
 192 governmental agencies shall develop and implement an abbreviated
 193 inspection plan for child care facilities that have had no Class
 194 1 or Class 2 deficiencies, as defined by rule, for at least 2
 195 consecutive years. The abbreviated inspection must include those
 196 elements identified by the department and the local governmental
 197 agencies as being key indicators of whether the child care
 198 facility continues to provide quality care and programming.

199 Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.