HB 0751 2004 A bill to be entitled

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An act relating to family child care homes; amending ss. 125.0109 and 166.0445, F.S.; redesignating family day care homes as family child care homes; deleting provisions relating to the regulation of registered family child care homes under local zoning regulations; conforming provisions to the licensure statute; amending s. 402.27, F.S.; requiring licensed family child care homes and large family child care homes to provide specified information to resource and referral agencies; amending s. 402.302, F.S.; defining the term "family child care home"; amending s. 402.3051, F.S.; deleting references to registered family child care homes; conforming provisions to the licensure statute; amending s. 402.306, F.S.; requiring the department and local licensing agencies to provide information on large family child care homes; deleting reference to registered family care homes; conforming provisions to the licensure statute; amending s. 402.312, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to the registration of family child care homes; amending s. 402.313, F.S.; requiring all family child care homes to be licensed; deleting provisions relating to registration of family child care homes; deleting provisions relating to voluntary licensing of family child care homes; requiring registered family child care homes to obtain a license by a specified date; requiring the Department of Children and Family Services to adopt rules for minimum licensing standards; amending ss. 409.1671 and 627.70161, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to registered family child

care homes; conforming section to licensure statute; reenacting s. 400.953(3), F.S., relating to proof of compliance with background screening requirements, to incorporate the amendment to s. 402.313, F.S., in references thereto; providing that the act will not take effect unless a specified number of positions are funded for licensing family child care homes; 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. Section 125.0109, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

125.0109 Family child day care homes; local zoning

regulation.--The operation of a residence as a family <u>child day</u>
care home, as defined by law, registered or licensed with the
Department of Children and Family Services <u>constitutes shall</u>
constitute a valid residential use for purposes of any local
zoning regulations, and the no such regulation may not shall

require the owner or operator of such family <u>child</u> day care home to obtain any special exemption or use permit or waiver, or to pay any special fee in excess of \$50, to operate in an area

zoned for residential use.

Section 2. Section 166.0445, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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166.0445 Family <u>child</u> <u>day</u> care homes; local zoning regulation.—The operation of a residence as a family <u>child</u> <u>day</u> care home, as defined by law, <u>registered or</u> licensed with the Department of Children and Family Services constitutes <u>shall</u>

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constitute a valid residential use for purposes of any local zoning regulations, and the no such regulation may not shall require the owner or operator of such family child day care home to obtain any special exemption or use permit or waiver, or to pay any special fee in excess of \$50, to operate in an area zoned for residential use.

Section 3. Subsection (10) of section 402.27, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.27 Child care and early childhood resource and referral.—The Department of Children and Family Services shall establish a statewide child care resource and referral network. Preference shall be given to using the already established central agencies for subsidized child care as the child care resource and referral agency. If the agency cannot comply with the requirements to offer the resource information component or does not want to offer that service, the Department of Children and Family Services shall select the resource information agency based upon a request for proposal. At least one child care resource and referral agency must be established in each district of the department, but no more than one may be established in any county. Child care resource and referral agencies shall provide the following services:

- (10) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 and <u>a</u> licensed and registered family child day care home or large family child care home licensed under s. 402.313 or s. 402.3131, respectively, homes must provide the statewide child care and resource and referral agencies with the following information annually:
 - (a) Type of program.

(b) Hours of service.

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- (c) Ages of children served.
- (d) Fees and eligibility for services.

Section 4. Subsections (3), (7), and (8) of section 402.302, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

402.302 Definitions.--

"Child care personnel" means all owners, operators, employees, and volunteers working in a child care facility. The term does not include persons who work in a child care facility after hours when children are not present or parents of children in Head Start. For purposes of screening, the term includes any member, over the age of 12 years, of a child care facility operator's family, or person, over the age of 12 years, residing with a child care facility operator if the child care facility is located in or adjacent to the home of the operator or if the family member of, or person residing with, the child care facility operator has any direct contact with the children in the facility during its hours of operation. Members of the operator's family or persons residing with the operator who are between the ages of 12 years and 18 years shall not be required to be fingerprinted but shall be screened for delinquency records. For purposes of screening, the term shall also include persons who work in child care programs that which provide care for children 15 hours or more each week in public or nonpublic schools, summer day camps, family child day care homes, or those programs otherwise exempted under s. 402.316. The term does not include public or nonpublic school personnel who are providing care during regular school hours, or after hours for activities related to a school's program for grades kindergarten through

12. A volunteer who assists on an intermittent basis for less than 40 hours per month is not included in the term "personnel" for the purposes of screening and training, provided that the volunteer is under direct and constant supervision by persons who meet the personnel requirements of s. 402.305(2). Students who observe and participate in a child care facility as a part of their required coursework shall not be considered child care personnel, provided the such observation and participation are on an intermittent basis and the students are under direct and constant supervision of child care personnel.

- (7) "Family day care home" or "family child care home" means an occupied residence in which child care is regularly provided for children from at least two unrelated families and which receives a payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or not operated for profit. A family child day care home shall be allowed to provide care for one of the following groups of children, which shall include those children under 13 years of age who are related to the caregiver:
- (a) A maximum of four children from birth to 12 months of age.
- (b) A maximum of three children from birth to 12 months of age, and other children, for a maximum total of six children.
- (c) A maximum of six preschool children if all are older than 12 months of age.
- (d) A maximum of 10 children if no more than 5 are preschool age and, of those 5, no more than 2 are under 12 months of age.
- (8) "Large family child care home" means an occupied residence in which child care is regularly provided for children

from at least two unrelated families, which receives a payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or not operated for profit, and which has at least two full-time child care personnel on the premises during the hours of operation. One of the two full-time child care personnel must be the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child care home must first have operated as a licensed family child day care home for 2 years, with an operator who has had a child development associate credential or its equivalent for 1 year, before seeking licensure as a large family child care home. A large family child care home shall be allowed to provide care for one of the following groups of children, which shall include those children under 13 years of age who are related to the caregiver:

- (a) A maximum of 8 children from birth to 24 months of age.
- (b) A maximum of 12 children, with no more than 4 children under 24 months of age.
- Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection (2) of section 402.3051, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 402.3051 Child care market rate reimbursement; child care grants.--
 - (1) As used in this section, the term:
- (b) "Market rate" means the price that a child care provider charges for daily, weekly, or monthly child care services. Market rate shall:
- 1. Be established for licensed child care facilities or facilities that are not subject to s. 402.305, licensed or registered family child day care homes, licensed before-school

and after-school child care programs, and unregulated care provided by a relative or other caretaker.

- 2. Differentiate among child care for children with special needs or risk categories, infants, toddlers, and preschool and school-age children.
 - 3. Differentiate between full-time and part-time care.
- 4. Consider reductions in the cost of care for additional children in the same family.
- (2) The department shall establish procedures to reimburse licensed or, exempt, or registered child care providers who hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation at the market rate for child care services for children who are eligible to receive subsidized child care; and licensed or, exempt, or registered child care providers at the prevailing market rate for child care services for children who are eligible to receive subsidized child care, unless prohibited by federal law under s. 402.3015. The department shall establish procedures to reimburse providers of unregulated child care at not more than 50 percent of the market rate. The payment system may not interfere with the parents' decision as to the appropriate child care arrangement, regardless of the level of available funding for child care. The child care program assessment tool may not be used to determine reimbursement rates.
- Section 6. Subsection (3) of section 402.306, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 402.306 Designation of licensing agency; dissemination by the department and local licensing agency of information on child care.--

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the designees thereof, shall coordinate and disseminate be responsible for coordination and dissemination of information on child care to the community. and shall make available Upon request, the department and each local licensing agency must make available to the public all licensing standards and procedures, in addition to the names and addresses of licensed child care facilities and, where applicable pursuant to ss. s. 402.313 and 402.3131, licensed or registered family child day care homes and large family child care homes.

Section 7. Section 402.312, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.312 License required; injunctive relief .--

The operation of a child care facility without a license, a family child day care home without a license or registration, or a large family child care home without a license is prohibited. If the department or the local licensing agency discovers that a child care facility is being operated without a license, a family child day care home is being operated without a license or registration, or a large family child care home is being operated without a license, the department or local licensing agency is authorized to seek an injunction in the circuit court where the facility is located to enjoin continued operation of such facility, family child day care home, or large family child care home. When the court is closed for the transaction of judicial business, the department or local licensing agency is authorized to seek an emergency injunction to enjoin continued operation of such unlicensed facility, unregistered or unlicensed family child day care home,

or unlicensed large family child care home, which injunction shall be continued, modified, or revoked on the next day of judicial business.

- (2) Other grounds for seeking an injunction to close a child care facility, family <u>child</u> day care home, or a large family child care home are that:
- (a) There is any violation of the standards applied under ss. 402.301-402.319 which threatens harm to any child in the child care facility, a family <u>child</u> day care home, or large family child care home.
- (b) A licensee or registrant has repeatedly violated the standards provided for under ss. 402.301-402.319.
- (c) A child care facility, family <u>child</u> day care home, or large family child care home continues to have children in attendance after the closing date established by the department or the local licensing agency.
- (3) The department or local licensing agency may impose an administrative fine on any child care facility, family child day care home, or large family child care home operating without a license or registration, consistent with the provisions of s. 402.310.
- Section 8. Section 402.313, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 402.313 Family child day care homes. --
- (1) Family <u>child</u> day care homes shall be licensed under this <u>section</u>. act if they are presently being licensed under an existing county licensing ordinance, if they are participating in the subsidized child care program, or if the board of county commissioners passes a resolution that family day care homes be

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| 261 | licensed. If no county authority exists for the licensing of a |
| 262 | family day care home, the department shall have the authority to |
| 263 | license family day care homes under contract for the purchase- |
| 264 | of-service system in the subsidized child care program. |
| 265 | (a) If not subject to license, family day care homes shall |
| 266 | register annually with the department, providing the following |
| 267 | information: |
| 268 | 1. The name and address of the home. |
| 269 | 2. The name of the operator. |
| 270 | 3. The number of children served. |
| 271 | 4. Proof of a written plan to provide at least one other |
| 272 | competent adult to be available to substitute for the operator |
| 273 | in an emergency. This plan shall include the name, address, and |
| 274 | telephone number of the designated substitute. |
| 275 | 5. Proof of screening and background checks. |
| 276 | 6. Proof of successful completion of the 30-hour training |
| 277 | course, as evidenced by passage of a competency examination, |
| 278 | which shall include: |
| 279 | a. State and local rules and regulations that govern child |
| 280 | care. |
| 281 | b. Health, safety, and nutrition. |
| 282 | c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect. |
| 283 | d. Child development, including typical and atypical |
| 284 | language development; and cognitive, motor, social, and self- |
| 285 | help skills development. |
| 286 | e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using |
| 287 | a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to |

child's developmental level.

f. Specialized areas, including early literacy and language development of children from birth to 5 years of age, as determined by the department, for owner-operators of family day care homes.

- 7. Proof that immunization records are kept current.
- 8. Proof of completion of the required continuing education units or clock hours.

- $\underline{(a)}$ (b) The department or local licensing agency may impose an administrative fine, not to exceed \$100, for failure to comply with licensure or registration requirements.
- (c) A family day care home not participating in the subsidized child care program may volunteer to be licensed under the provisions of this act.
- $\underline{\text{(b)}}$ (d) The department may provide technical assistance to counties and family $\underline{\text{child}}$ day care home providers to enable counties and family $\underline{\text{child}}$ day care providers to achieve compliance with family child $\underline{\text{day}}$ care homes standards.
- (2) This Information shall be included in a directory to be published annually by the department to inform the public of available child care facilities.
- (3) Child care personnel in family <u>child day</u> care homes shall be subject to the applicable screening provisions contained in ss. 402.305(2) and 402.3055. For purposes of screening in family <u>child day</u> care homes, the term includes any member over the age of 12 years of a family <u>child day</u> care home operator's family, or persons over the age of 12 years residing with the operator in the family <u>child day</u> care home. Members of the operator's family, or persons residing with the operator, who are between the ages of 12 years and 18 years shall not be

required to be fingerprinted, but shall be screened for delinquency records.

- (4) Operators of family <u>child</u> day care homes must successfully complete an approved 30-clock-hour introductory course in child care, as evidenced by passage of a competency examination, before caring for children.
- (5) In order to further develop their child care skills and, if appropriate, their administrative skills, operators of family child day care homes shall be required to complete an additional 1 continuing education unit of approved training or 10 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the department, annually.
- (6) Operators of family <u>child</u> day care homes shall be required to complete 0.5 continuing education unit of approved training in early literacy and language development of children from birth to 5 years of age one time. The year that this training is completed, it shall fulfill the 0.5 continuing education unit or 5 clock hours of the annual training required in subsection (5).
- (7) Operators of family <u>child</u> day care homes shall be required annually to complete a health and safety home inspection self-evaluation checklist developed by the department in conjunction with the statewide resource and referral program. The completed checklist shall be signed by the operator of the family <u>child</u> day care home and provided to parents as certification that basic health and safety standards are being met.
- (8) Family <u>child</u> day care home operators may avail themselves of supportive services offered by the department.

child day care for distribution by the department and by local licensing agencies, if appropriate, to family child day care homes for distribution to parents utilizing such child care, and to all interested persons, including physicians and other health professionals; mental health professionals; school teachers or other school personnel; social workers or other professional child care, foster care, residential, or institutional workers; and law enforcement officers. The brochure shall, at a minimum, contain the following information:

- (a) A brief description of the requirements for family child day care <u>licensure</u> registration, training, and fingerprinting and screening.
- (b) A listing of those counties that <u>license</u> require <u>licensure of family child day</u> care homes. Such counties shall provide an addendum to the brochure that provides a brief description of the licensure requirements or may provide a brochure in lieu of the one described in this subsection, provided it contains all the required information on licensure and the required information in the subsequent paragraphs.
- (c) A statement indicating that information about the family child day care home's compliance with applicable state or local requirements can be obtained by telephoning the department office or the office of the local licensing agency, if appropriate, at a telephone number or numbers which shall be affixed to the brochure.
- (d) The statewide toll-free telephone number of the central abuse hotline, together with a notice that reports of suspected and actual child physical abuse, sexual abuse, and

neglect are received and referred for investigation by the hotline.

- (e) Any other information relating to competent child care that the department or local licensing agency, if preparing a separate brochure, deems would be helpful to parents and other caretakers in their selection of a family child day care home.
- (10) On an annual basis, the department shall evaluate the registration and licensure system for family child day care homes. Such evaluation shall, at a minimum, address the following:
- (a) The number of family <u>child</u> day care homes registered and licensed and the dates of such registration and licensure.
- (b) The number of children being served in both registered and licensed family child day care homes and any available slots in such homes.
- (c) The number of complaints received concerning family $\underline{\text{child day}}$ care, the nature of the complaints, and the resolution of such complaints.
- (d) The training activities <u>used</u> utilized by child care personnel in family <u>child</u> day care homes for meeting the state or local training requirements.

The evaluation shall be <u>used</u> <u>utilized</u> by the department in any administrative modifications or adjustments to be made in the <u>licensure</u> <u>registration</u> of family <u>child</u> <u>day</u> care homes or in any legislative requests for modifications to the system of <u>licensure</u> <u>registration</u> or to other requirements for family <u>child</u> <u>day</u> care homes.

(11) In order to inform the public of the state requirement for <u>licensure registration</u> of family <u>child day</u> care homes as well as the other requirements for such homes to legally operate in the state, the department shall institute a media campaign to accomplish this end. Such a campaign shall include, at a minimum, flyers, newspaper advertisements, radio advertisements, and television advertisements.

- (12) Notwithstanding any other state or local law or ordinance, any family <u>child</u> day care home licensed pursuant to this chapter or pursuant to a county ordinance shall be charged the utility rates accorded to a residential home. A licensed family <u>child</u> day care home may not be charged commercial utility rates.
- licensing standards for family child day care homes that are required to be licensed by county licensing ordinance or county licensing resolution or that voluntarily choose to be licensed. The standards should include requirements for staffing, training, maintenance of immunization records, minimum health and safety standards, reduced standards for the regulation of child care during evening hours by municipalities and counties, and enforcement of standards.

Section 9. Each family child care home that is registered with the Department of Children and Family Services or a local licensing agency on June 30, 2004, must obtain a license from the department as required under s. 402.313, Florida Statutes, by July 1, 2005.

Section 10. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 409.1671, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

433 409.1671 Foster care and related services; 434 privatization.--

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(b) Substitute care providers who are licensed under s. 409.175 and have contracted with a lead agency authorized under this section shall also be authorized to provide registered or licensed family child day care homes under s. 402.313, if consistent with federal law and if the home has met the requirements of s. 402.313.

Section 11. Section 627.70161, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

627.70161 Family child day care home insurance.--

- (1) PURPOSE AND INTENT.--The Legislature recognizes that family child day care homes fulfill a vital role in providing child care in Florida. It is the intent of the Legislature that residential property insurance coverage should not be canceled, denied, or nonrenewed solely on the basis of the family child day care services at the residence. The Legislature also recognizes that the potential liability of residential property insurers is substantially increased by the rendition of child care services on the premises. The Legislature therefore finds that there is a public need to specify that contractual liabilities that arise in connection with the operation of the family child day care home are excluded from residential property insurance policies unless they are specifically included in such coverage.
 - (2) DEFINITIONS. -- As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Child care" means the care, protection, and supervision of a child, for a period of less than 24 hours a day

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on a regular basis, which supplements parental care, enrichment, and health supervision for the child, in accordance with his or her individual needs, and for which a payment, fee, or grant is made for care.

- (b) "Family child day care home" means an occupied residence in which child care is regularly provided for children from at least two unrelated families and which receives a payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or not operated for a profit.
- (3) FAMILY CHILD DAY CARE; COVERAGE. -- A residential property insurance policy shall not provide coverage for liability for claims arising out of, or in connection with, the operation of a family child day care home, and the insurer shall be under no obligation to defend against lawsuits covering such claims, unless:
 - (a) Specifically covered in a policy; or
- (b) Covered by a rider or endorsement for business coverage attached to a policy.
- (4) DENIAL, CANCELLATION, REFUSAL TO RENEW PROHIBITED. -- An insurer may not deny, cancel, or refuse to renew a policy for residential property insurance solely on the basis that the policyholder or applicant operates a family child day care home. In addition to other lawful reasons for refusing to insure, an insurer may deny, cancel, or refuse to renew a policy of a family child day care home provider if one or more of the following conditions occur:
- (a) The policyholder or applicant provides care for more children than authorized for family $\frac{\text{child}}{\text{day}}$ care homes by s. 402.302;

(b) The policyholder or applicant fails to maintain a separate commercial liability policy or an endorsement providing liability coverage for the family child day care home operations;

- (c) The policyholder or applicant fails to comply with the family <u>child</u> day care home licensure and registration requirements specified in s. 402.313; or
- (d) Discovery of willful or grossly negligent acts or omissions or any violations of state laws or regulations establishing safety standards for family child day care homes by the named insured or his or her representative which materially increase any of the risks insured.

Section 12. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 402.313, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, subsection (3) of section 400.953, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

- 400.953 Background screening of home medical equipment provider personnel.—The agency shall require employment screening as provided in chapter 435, using the level 1 standards for screening set forth in that chapter, for home medical equipment provider personnel.
- (3) Proof of compliance with the screening requirements of s. 110.1127, s. 393.0655, s. 394.4572, s. 397.451, s. 402.305, s. 402.313, s. 409.175, s. 464.008, or s. 985.407 or this part must be accepted in lieu of the requirements of this section if the person has been continuously employed in the same type of occupation for which he or she is seeking employment without a breach in service that exceeds 180 days, the proof of compliance is not more than 2 years old, and the person has been screened

by the Department of Law Enforcement. An employer or contractor shall directly provide proof of compliance to another employer or contractor, and a potential employer or contractor may not accept any proof of compliance directly from the person requiring screening. Proof of compliance with the screening requirements of this section shall be provided, upon request, to

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Section 13. This act shall not take effect unless sufficient funds are allocated in a specific appropriation or in the General Appropriations Act for the 2004-2005 fiscal year to fund 30 additional positions for licensing family child care homes.

the person screened by the home medical equipment provider.

Section 14. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.