

Amendment No. (for drafter's use only)

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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1 Representative Ausley offered the following:

2
3 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

4 Between lines 18 and 19, insert:

5 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section
6 411.01, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter 2004-484, Laws
7 of Florida, is amended to read:

8 411.01 School readiness programs; early learning
9 coalitions.--

10 (5) CREATION OF EARLY LEARNING COALITIONS.--

11 (a) Early learning coalitions.--

12 1. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall establish the
13 minimum number of children to be served by each early learning
14 coalition through the coalition's school readiness program. The
15 Agency for Workforce Innovation may only approve school

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16 readiness plans in accordance with this minimum number. The
17 minimum number must be uniform for every early learning
18 coalition and must:

19 a. Permit 30 or fewer coalitions to be established; and

20 b. Require each coalition to serve at least 2,000 children
21 based upon the average number of all children served per month
22 through the coalition's school readiness program during the
23 previous 12 months.

24
25 The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt procedures for
26 merging early learning coalitions, including procedures for the
27 consolidation of merging coalitions, and for the early
28 termination of the terms of coalition members which are
29 necessary to accomplish the mergers. Each early learning
30 coalition must comply with the merger procedures and shall be
31 organized in accordance with this subparagraph by April 1, 2005.
32 By June 30, 2005, each coalition must complete the transfer of
33 powers, duties, functions, rules, records, personnel, property,
34 and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and
35 other funds to the successor coalition, if applicable.

36 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection , the early
37 learning coalition that includes Jefferson, Liberty, Madison,
38 Wakulla, and Taylor counties currently in operation is
39 established and authorized to continue operation as an
40 independent coalition and shall not be counted toward the limit
41 of 30 coalitions pursuant to this subsection.

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42 2. If an early learning coalition would serve fewer
43 children than the minimum number established under subparagraph
44 1., the coalition must merge with another county to form a
45 multicounty coalition. However, the Agency for Workforce
46 Innovation may authorize an early learning coalition to serve
47 fewer children than the minimum number established under
48 subparagraph 1., if:

49 a. The coalition demonstrates to the Agency for Workforce
50 Innovation that merging with another county or multicounty
51 region contiguous to the coalition would cause an extreme
52 hardship on the coalition;

53 b. The Agency for Workforce Innovation has determined
54 during the most recent annual review of the coalition's school
55 readiness plan, or through monitoring and performance
56 evaluations conducted under paragraph (4)(1), that the coalition
57 has substantially implemented its plan and substantially met the
58 performance standards and outcome measures adopted by the
59 agency; and

60 c. The coalition demonstrates to the Agency for Workforce
61 Innovation the coalition's ability to effectively and
62 efficiently implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
63 Program.

64
65 If an early learning coalition fails or refuses to merge as
66 required by this subparagraph, the Agency for Workforce
67 Innovation may dissolve the coalition and temporarily contract
68 with a qualified entity to continue school readiness and

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69 prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or
70 multicounty region until the coalition is reestablished through
71 resubmission of a school readiness plan and approval by the
72 agency.

73 3. Each early learning coalition shall be composed of at
74 least 18 members but not more than 35 members. The Agency for
75 Workforce Innovation shall adopt standards establishing within
76 this range the minimum and maximum number of members that may be
77 appointed to an early learning coalition. These standards must
78 include variations for a coalition serving a multicounty region.
79 Each early learning coalition must comply with these standards.

80 4. The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other
81 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the
82 same qualifications as private-sector business members appointed
83 by the coalition under subparagraph 6.

84 5. Each early learning coalition must include the
85 following members:

86 a. A Department of Children and Family Services district
87 administrator or his or her designee who is authorized to make
88 decisions on behalf of the department.

89 b. A district superintendent of schools or his or her
90 designee who is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the
91 district, who shall be a nonvoting member.

92 c. A regional workforce board executive director or his or
93 her designee.

94 d. A county health department director or his or her
95 designee.

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96 e. A children's services council or juvenile welfare board
97 chair or executive director, if applicable, who shall be a
98 nonvoting member if the council or board is the fiscal agent of
99 the coalition or if the council or board contracts with and
100 receives funds from the coalition.

101 f. An agency head of a local licensing agency as defined
102 in s. 402.302, where applicable.

103 g. A president of a community college or his or her
104 designee.

105 h. One member appointed by a board of county
106 commissioners.

107 i. A central agency administrator, where applicable, who
108 shall be a nonvoting member.

109 j. A Head Start director, who shall be a nonvoting member.

110 k. A representative of private child care providers,
111 including family day care homes, who shall be a nonvoting
112 member.

113 l. A representative of faith-based child care providers,
114 who shall be a nonvoting member.

115 m. A representative of programs for children with
116 disabilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities
117 Education Act, who shall be a nonvoting member.

118 6. Including the members appointed by the Governor under
119 subparagraph 4., more than one-third of the members of each
120 early learning coalition must be private-sector business members
121 who do not have, and none of whose relatives as defined in s.
122 112.3143 has, a substantial financial interest in the design or

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123 delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
124 created under part V of chapter 1002 or the coalition's school
125 readiness program. To meet this requirement an early learning
126 coalition must appoint additional members from a list of
127 nominees submitted to the coalition by a chamber of commerce or
128 economic development council within the geographic region served
129 by the coalition. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall
130 establish criteria for appointing private-sector business
131 members. These criteria must include standards for determining
132 whether a member or relative has a substantial financial
133 interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary
134 Prekindergarten Education Program or the coalition's school
135 readiness program.

136 7. A majority of the voting membership of an early
137 learning coalition constitutes a quorum required to conduct the
138 business of the coalition.

139 8. A voting member of an early learning coalition may not
140 appoint a designee to act in his or her place, except as
141 otherwise provided in this paragraph. A voting member may send a
142 representative to coalition meetings, but that representative
143 does not have voting privileges. When a district administrator
144 for the Department of Children and Family Services appoints a
145 designee to an early learning coalition, the designee is the
146 voting member of the coalition, and any individual attending in
147 the designee's place, including the district administrator, does
148 not have voting privileges.

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149 9. Each member of an early learning coalition is subject
150 to ss. 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143. For purposes of s.
151 112.3143(3)(a), each voting member is a local public officer who
152 must abstain from voting when a voting conflict exists.

153 10. For purposes of tort liability, each member or
154 employee of an early learning coalition shall be governed by s.
155 768.28.

156 11. An early learning coalition serving a multicounty
157 region must include representation from each county.

158 12. Each early learning coalition shall establish terms
159 for all appointed members of the coalition. The terms must be
160 staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed 4
161 years per term. Appointed members may serve a maximum of two
162 consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs in an appointed
163 position, the coalition must advertise the vacancy.

164
165 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

166 Remove line 6 and insert:
167 the Legislature; amending s. 411.01, F.S.; providing that
168 specified counties continue to operate as an independent early
169 learning coalition for certain purposes; providing an effective
170 date.

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