

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 1233 CS

Early Learning

SPONSOR(S): Ausley

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 2376

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1) <u>PreK-12 Committee</u>	<u>10 Y, 0 N, w/CS</u>	<u>Beagle</u>	<u>Mizereck</u>
2) <u>Finance & Tax Committee</u>	<u></u>	<u>Rice</u>	<u>Diez-Arguelles</u>
3) <u>Education Appropriations Committee</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
4) <u>Education Council</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
5) <u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

This bill requires the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC), in conjunction with the Agency for Workforce Innovation, to contract for a study of early learning quality rating and incentive systems.

The bill requires the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to conduct a study of the administrative and operational structure of the Child Care Services Program Office of the Department of Children and Family Services.

The bill also requires OPPAGA, in cooperation with ELAC, to conduct a study of the effectiveness of the Child Care Executive Partnership Act.

Each study must be submitted to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 15, 2007

The bill takes effect upon becoming law.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. HOUSE PRINCIPLES ANALYSIS:

This bill does not appear to implicate any of the House Principles.

B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation:

Section 411.01(4), F.S., requires the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) to administer the state's early learning programs. AWI is responsible for maintaining and improving the quality of publicly funded early learning programs. Federal regulations governing the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) require that at least four percent of federal funding from CCDF be devoted to quality initiatives.¹ Florida currently spends \$24.2 million, constituting 5.4 percent of its CCDF funds, on quality initiatives.²

According to AWI, there is no state system in place that rates or provides incentives to providers based on higher quality services or performance. However, early learning service providers that meet certain national standards may earn a Gold Seal Quality Care designation pursuant to s. 402.281, F.S.

Section 409.178, F.S., the Child Care Executive Partnership Act, establishes the Child Care Executive Partnership Program. The Child Care Executive Partnership Program uses state and federal funds to match local funds derived from various sources, to create community based partnerships with employers and provide child care subsidies to low-income working parents. The Legislature is required to annually review the effectiveness of the program and reevaluate the percentage of additional state or federal funds, if any, that can be used for the program's expansion.

Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill requires Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC), in conjunction with AWI, to contract for a study of early learning quality rating and incentive systems in Florida and other states. The study must provide recommendations on:

- An early learning quality incentives and rating system with uniform standards and financial incentives for participating providers; and
- The establishment, cost and benefits of a quality incentive pilot program.

The bill requires the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to conduct a study of the administrative and operational structure of the Child Care Services Program Office of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCF). The study must include recommendations for the appropriate administrative and operational structures and state agency to regulate child care in Florida.

The bill also requires OPPAGA, in cooperation with ELAC, to conduct a study of the effectiveness of the Child Care Executive Partnership Act that includes a comparison of the funds expended and return on investment.

Each study with required recommendations must be submitted to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 15, 2007.

¹ 45 C.F.R. § 98.51.

² Agency for Workforce Innovation, Legislative Bill Analysis for SB 2376.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creates an unnumbered section of law requiring ELAC to contract for a study.

Section 2. Creates an unnumbered section of law requiring OPPAGA to study the Child Care Services Program Office of the DCF.

Section 3. Creates an unnumbered section of law requiring OPPAGA to study the effectiveness of the Child Care Executive Partnership Act.

Section 4. Provides that the bill is effective upon becoming law.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

AWI, ELAC, and OPPAGA will incur costs associated with conducting the required studies.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None

2. Expenditures:

None

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The bill requires the Florida Early Learning Advisory Council, in conjunction with the Agency for Workforce Innovation to contract with one or more experts in the field of quality incentives and rating systems to conduct a study. This bill does not provide funding for this contract.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill does not require a municipality or county to expend funds or to take any action requiring the expenditure of funds. The bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or counties have to raise revenues in the aggregate. The bill does not reduce the percentage of state tax shared with municipalities or counties.

2. Other:

None

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None

IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE & COMBINED BILL CHANGES

On March 21, 2006, the PreK-12 Committee adopted a strike-all amendment. This bill analysis reflects the bill as amended.