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A bill to be entitled  
 An act relating to early learning; establishing the Early Learning Quality Incentives Task Force to be administratively housed in the Agency for Workforce Innovation; providing duties and membership; requiring recommendations to the Governor and Legislature; providing for termination of the task force; requiring the Department of Children and Family Services, in cooperation with the Agency for Workforce Innovation, to contract for a study relating to the administration and regulation of child care services; requiring submission of findings to the task force for purposes of its final recommendations; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Early Learning Quality Incentives Task Force.--

(1) There is established the Early Learning Quality Incentives Task Force to be administratively housed in the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The Agency for Workforce Innovation is authorized to contract with one or more nationally known experts on quality incentives and rating systems to serve as facilitators and resources in directing the task force. The task force shall perform all of the following duties:

(a) Identify and examine existing early learning quality incentives and rating systems in the state.

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27 (b) Identify and examine early learning quality incentives  
28 and rating systems in other states, including, but not limited  
29 to, systems in North Carolina and Oklahoma.

30 (c) Develop a recommended early learning quality  
31 incentives and rating system that includes uniform standards and  
32 levels of financial quality incentives for participating  
33 providers.

34 (d) Recommend appropriate levels of financial commitment  
35 of state resources to ensure quality early learning programs.

36 (e) Recommend initial investment of quality incentive  
37 dollars for pilot programs in five counties.

38 (2)(a) The task force shall consist of representatives  
39 appointed by the Governor from each of the following categories:

40 1. One member each from a large, medium, and small  
41 children's services council with an appropriate mix from urban  
42 and rural counties.

43 2. One chair each from a large, medium, and small early  
44 learning coalition with an appropriate mix from urban and rural  
45 counties.

46 3. One member from an early learning services provider.

47 4. One member from a private child care provider  
48 association.

49 5. One member from a faith-based child care provider  
50 association.

51 6. One member each from a community college and a state  
52 university with a child care training component.

53 7. One parent who currently has a child in an early  
54 learning program.

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55        (b) The task force shall also consist of the following  
56 members:

57        1. A member of the Senate appointed by the President of  
58 the Senate.

59        2. A member of the House of Representatives appointed by  
60 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

61        3. A member appointed by the Secretary of Children and  
62 Family Services who has expertise in child care licensing and  
63 regulation.

64        4. A member appointed by the Commissioner of Education who  
65 has expertise in the education of young children.

66        (3) The members of the task force shall serve without  
67 compensation but shall be entitled to receive reimbursement for  
68 per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.061, Florida  
69 Statutes.

70        (4) The task force shall submit its recommendations to the  
71 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
72 House of Representatives by February 15, 2007, at which time the  
73 task force shall be terminated.

74        Section 2. The Department of Children and Family Services,  
75 in cooperation with the Agency for Workforce Innovation, shall  
76 contract with an independent research institution to conduct a  
77 study of the administrative and operational structure of the  
78 Child Care Services Program Office of the Department of Children  
79 and Family Services that will include a review of all resources  
80 supporting the office as well as a review of child care services  
81 offices in other states. The findings of the study shall include  
82 a recommendation regarding the appropriate administrative and

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83 operational structures and the appropriate state agency to  
84 administer child care regulation functions. The findings of the  
85 study shall be submitted to the Early Learning Quality  
86 Incentives Task Force by January 1, 2007, for incorporation into  
87 the final recommendations of the task force.

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