

By the Committee on Transportation and Economic Development
Appropriations; and Senator Fasano

606-1835-06

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the school readiness equity

3 allocation formula; amending s. 411.01, F.S.;

4 requiring the Agency for Workforce Innovation

5 to recommend a formula to allocate funds;

6 providing for changes in the allocation of

7 funds to be specified in the General

8 Appropriations Act; eliminating approval of the

9 allocation formula by the Legislative Budget

10 Commission; eliminating an obsolete provision;

11 providing an effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 411.01, Florida

16 Statutes, is amended to read:

17 411.01 School readiness programs; early learning

18 coalitions.--

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

20 (a) It is the intent of this section to establish an

21 integrated and quality seamless service delivery system for

22 all publicly funded early childhood education and child care

23 programs operating in this state.

24 (b)1. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall

25 administer school readiness funds, plans, and policies and

26 shall prepare and submit a unified budget request for the

27 school readiness system in accordance with chapter 216.

28 2. All instructions to early learning coalitions for

29 administering this section shall emanate from the Agency for

30 Workforce Innovation in accordance with the policies of the

31 Legislature.

1 (c) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall
2 ~~recommend~~ adopt a formula for the allocation among the early
3 learning coalitions of all state and federal school readiness
4 funds for children participating in public or private school
5 readiness programs based upon equity and performance. The
6 allocation formula must be submitted to the Governor and the
7 Legislature no later than January 1 of each year. The
8 Legislature shall specify in the annual General Appropriations
9 Act any changes from the allocation methodology for the prior
10 fiscal year which must be used by the Agency for Workforce
11 Innovation in allocating the appropriations provided in the
12 General Appropriations Act ~~Legislative Budget Commission. Upon~~
13 ~~approval, the Legislative Budget Commission shall authorize~~
14 ~~the Agency for Workforce Innovation to distribute funds in~~
15 ~~accordance with the allocation formula. For fiscal year~~
16 ~~2004-2005, the Agency for Workforce Innovation shall allocate~~
17 ~~funds to the early learning coalitions consistent with the~~
18 ~~fiscal year 2003-2004 funding allocations to the school~~
19 ~~readiness coalitions.~~

20 (d) All state, federal, and required local
21 maintenance-of-effort or matching funds provided to an early
22 learning coalition for purposes of this section shall be used
23 by the coalition for implementation of its school readiness
24 plan, including the hiring of staff to effectively operate the
25 coalition's school readiness program. As part of plan approval
26 and periodic plan review, the Agency for Workforce Innovation
27 shall require that administrative costs be kept to the minimum
28 necessary for efficient and effective administration of the
29 school readiness plan, but total administrative expenditures
30 must not exceed 5 percent unless specifically waived by the
31 Agency for Workforce Innovation. The Agency for Workforce

1 Innovation shall annually report to the Legislature any
2 problems relating to administrative costs.

3 (e) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall annually
4 distribute, to a maximum extent practicable, all eligible
5 funds provided under this section as block grants to the early
6 learning coalitions.

7 (f) State funds appropriated for the school readiness
8 program may not be used for the construction of new facilities
9 or the purchase of buses. The Agency for Workforce Innovation
10 shall present to the Legislature recommendations for providing
11 necessary transportation services for school readiness
12 programs.

13 (g) All cost savings and all revenues received through
14 a mandatory sliding fee scale shall be used to help fund each
15 early learning coalition's school readiness program.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

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18 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
19 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
20 Senate Bill 840

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22 This Committee Substitute revises the approval process for the
23 allocation formula for School Readiness funds provided to the
24 early learning coalitions. It provides that the Agency for
25 Workforce Innovation must submit the recommended formula to
26 the Governor and to the Legislature by January 1 of each year,
27 instead of to the Governor and to the Legislative Budget
28 Commission for approval. The Legislature must specify in the
29 General Appropriations Act any changes from the allocation
30 methodology for the prior fiscal year which must be used by
31 the Agency for Workforce Innovation in allocating funds to the
early learning coalitions.

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