

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to child care services; providing
 3 legislative intent that a child under jurisdiction of the
 4 circuit court receive priority consideration for placement
 5 into a quality child care center; defining the term
 6 "quality child care center"; requiring a quality child
 7 care center to immediately notify the legal guardian of a
 8 child if the child care center is unable to accept a child
 9 into its program due to the center's limited capacity;
 10 requiring district child care licensing agencies to
 11 provide a report to community-based care lead agencies
 12 regarding capacity of quality child care centers;
 13 providing an effective date.

14
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16
 17 Section 1. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that a
 18 child under the jurisdiction of the circuit court receive
 19 priority consideration for placement into a quality child care
 20 center pursuant to s. 411.01, Florida Statutes, the School
 21 Readiness Act.

22 (2) As used in this section, the term "quality child care
 23 center" means a child care center that:

24 (a) Holds a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation
 25 under s. 402.281, Florida Statutes; or

26 (b) Has been designated as a high-quality program with at
 27 least a quality rating of 3 by a professional quality rating
 28 system if such a system exists in the county in which the child

HB 1543

2007

29 is being served. A quality child care center must maintain
30 accreditation or designation as a high-quality program
31 throughout the year in order to be an approved provider.

32 (3) If a quality child care center is unable to accept a
33 child into its program due to the child care center's limited
34 capacity, the center must immediately notify the legal guardian
35 of the child of this fact and the estimated enrollment date for
36 the child.

37 (4) The agency in each district that is responsible for
38 licensing child care centers shall provide the community-based
39 care lead agency for the district with a quarterly report of the
40 licensed capacity for each quality child care center in the
41 district.

42 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.