

HB 1567

2007

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
3           Program; amending s. 1002.55, F.S.; revising the number of  
4           instructional hours that are required for a school-year  
5           prekindergarten program delivered by a private  
6           prekindergarten provider; revising the credential  
7           requirements for prekindergarten instructors in such  
8           programs; amending s. 1002.61, F.S.; revising the  
9           credential requirements for prekindergarten instructors in  
10          summer prekindergarten programs; amending s. 1002.63,  
11          F.S.; revising the number of instructional hours that are  
12          required for a school-year prekindergarten program  
13          delivered by a public school; repealing s. 1002.65, F.S.,  
14          relating to aspirational goals for credentials of  
15          prekindergarten instructors; amending s. 1002.71, F.S.;  
16          revising provisions relating to calculations for funding;  
17          amending s. 1007.23, F.S.; conforming provisions;  
18          providing an effective date.

19  
20   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21  
22           Section 1. Subsection (2), paragraph (c) of subsection  
23           (3), and subsection (4) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes,  
24           are amended to read:

25           1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
26           private prekindergarten providers.--

27 (2) Each school-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
 28 a private prekindergarten provider must comprise at least 1,080  
 29 ~~540~~ instructional hours.

30 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,  
 31 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the  
 32 following requirements:

33 (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for  
 34 each prekindergarten class, at least one prekindergarten  
 35 instructor who meets each of the following requirements:

36 1. The prekindergarten instructor must hold, at a minimum,  
 37 one of the following credentials:

38 a. A bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood  
 39 education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool  
 40 education, or family and consumer science;

41 b. A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education,  
 42 if the instructor has been certified to teach children any age  
 43 from birth through 6th grade; or

44 c. A bachelor's or higher degree in any subject and a  
 45 valid Florida teaching certificate.

46 ~~a. A child development associate credential issued by the~~  
 47 ~~National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional~~  
 48 ~~Recognition; or~~

49 ~~b. A credential approved by the Department of Children and~~  
 50 ~~Family Services as being equivalent to or greater than the~~  
 51 ~~credential described in sub-subparagraph a.~~

52  
 53 ~~The Department of Children and Family Services may adopt rules~~  
 54 ~~under ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and~~

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55 ~~procedures for approving equivalent credentials under sub-~~  
56 ~~subparagraph b.~~

57       2. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully  
58 complete an emergent literacy training course approved by the  
59 department as meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted  
60 under s. 1002.59. This subparagraph does not apply to a  
61 prekindergarten instructor who successfully completes approved  
62 training in early literacy and language development under s.  
63 402.305(2)(d)5., s. 402.313(6), or s. 402.3131(5) before the  
64 establishment of one or more emergent literacy training courses  
65 under s. 1002.59 or April 1, 2005, whichever occurs later.

66       ~~(4) A prekindergarten instructor, in lieu of the minimum~~  
67 ~~credentials and courses required under paragraph (3)(c), may~~  
68 ~~hold one of the following educational credentials:~~

69       ~~(a) A bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood~~  
70 ~~education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool~~  
71 ~~education, or family and consumer science;~~

72       ~~(b) A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education,~~  
73 ~~if the prekindergarten instructor has been certified to teach~~  
74 ~~children any age from birth through 6th grade, regardless of~~  
75 ~~whether the instructor's educator certificate is current, and if~~  
76 ~~the instructor is not ineligible to teach in a public school~~  
77 ~~because his or her educator certificate is suspended or revoked;~~

78       ~~(c) An associate's or higher degree in child development,~~

79       ~~(d) An associate's or higher degree in an unrelated field,~~  
80 ~~at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or child~~  
81 ~~development, and at least 480 hours of experience in teaching or~~  
82 ~~providing child care services for children any age from birth~~

83 ~~through 8 years of age, or~~

84 ~~(e) An educational credential approved by the department~~  
 85 ~~as being equivalent to or greater than an educational credential~~  
 86 ~~described in this subsection. The department may adopt criteria~~  
 87 ~~and procedures for approving equivalent educational credentials~~  
 88 ~~under this paragraph.~~

89 Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 1002.61, Florida  
 90 Statutes, is amended to read:

91 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public  
 92 schools and private prekindergarten providers.--

93 ~~(4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)1. and 1002.63(5),~~  
 94 Each public school and private prekindergarten provider must  
 95 have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one  
 96 prekindergarten instructor who meets the requirements in s.  
 97 1002.55(3)(c)1.+

98 ~~(a) Is a certified teacher, or~~

99 ~~(b) Holds one of the educational credentials specified in~~  
 100 ~~s. 1002.55(4)(a) or (b).~~

101 ~~As used in this subsection, the term "certified teacher" means A~~  
 102 ~~teacher holding a valid Florida educator certificate under s.~~  
 103 ~~1012.56 must have ~~who has~~ the qualifications required by the~~  
 104 ~~district school board to instruct students in the summer~~  
 105 ~~prekindergarten program. In selecting instructional staff for~~  
 106 ~~the summer prekindergarten program, each school district shall~~  
 107 ~~give priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in~~  
 108 ~~early childhood education.~~

109 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 1002.63, Florida  
 110 Statutes, is amended to read:

111 1002.63 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
 112 public schools.--

113 (2) Each school-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
 114 a public school must comprise at least 1,080 ~~540~~ instructional  
 115 hours.

116 Section 4. Section 1002.65, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

117 Section 5. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (2) of  
 118 section 1002.71, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

119 1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.--

120 (2) A full-time equivalent student in the Voluntary  
 121 Prekindergarten Education Program shall be calculated as  
 122 follows:

123 (a) For a student in a school-year prekindergarten program  
 124 delivered by a private prekindergarten provider: 1,080 ~~540~~  
 125 instructional hours.

126 (c) For a student in a school-year prekindergarten program  
 127 delivered by a public school: 1,080 ~~540~~ instructional hours.

128  
 129 Except as provided in subsection (4), a student may not be  
 130 reported for funding purposes as more than one full-time  
 131 equivalent student.

132 Section 6. Subsection (5) of section 1007.23, Florida  
 133 Statutes, is amended to read:

134 1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.--

135 (5) The articulation agreement must guarantee the  
 136 articulation of 9 credit hours toward a postsecondary degree in  
 137 early childhood education for programs approved by the State  
 138 Board of Education which:

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139           (a) Award a child development associate credential issued  
140 by the National Credentialing Program of the Council for  
141 Professional Recognition or award a credential approved under ~~s.~~  
142 ~~1002.55(3)(e)1.b.~~ or s. 402.305(3)(c) as being equivalent to the  
143 child development associate credential; and

144           (b) Include training in emergent literacy which meets or  
145 exceeds the minimum standards for training courses for  
146 prekindergarten instructors of the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
147 Education Program in s. 1002.59.

148           Section 7. This act shall take effect August 1, 2007.