

By Senator Wilson

33-194B-07

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to child care services;

3 providing legislative intent that a child under

4 the jurisdiction of the circuit court receive

5 priority consideration for placement into a

6 quality child care center; defining the term

7 "quality child care center"; requiring a

8 quality child care center to immediately notify

9 the legal guardian of a child if the child care

10 center is unable to accept a child into its

11 program due to the center's limited capacity;

12 requiring the district office of the Department

13 of Children and Family Services to inform each

14 appropriate community-based care lead agency of

15 the licensing capacity of quality child care

16 centers in the district; providing an effective

17 date.

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

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21 Section 1. (1) It is the intent of the Legislature

22 that a child under the jurisdiction of the circuit court

23 receive priority consideration for placement into a quality

24 child care center that serves children under the school

25 readiness programs under chapter 411, Florida Statutes.

26 (2) As used in this section, the term "quality child

27 care center" means a child care center that:

28 (a) Holds a current Gold Seal Quality Care designation

29 under s. 402.281, Florida Statutes; or

30 (b) Has been designated as a high-quality program that

31 has a quality rating of at least 3 by a professional quality

1 rating system if such a rating system exists in the county in
2 which the child is being served.

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4 A quality child care center must maintain accreditation or
5 quality designation through a quality rating system throughout
6 the year in order to be designated an approved provider.

7 (3) If a quality child care center is unable to accept
8 a child into its program due to the child care center's
9 limited capacity, the center must immediately notify the legal
10 guardian of the child of this fact and the estimated
11 enrollment date for the child.

12 (4) The district office of the Department of Children
13 and Family Services must inform each community-based care lead
14 agency serving the department's district of the licensing
15 capacity of quality child care centers in the district.

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

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19 SENATE SUMMARY

20 Provides legislative intent that a child under
21 jurisdiction of the circuit court receive priority
22 consideration for placement into a quality child care
23 center. Provides a definition of "quality child care
24 center." Requires a quality child care center to
25 immediately notify the legal guardian of a child if the
26 child care center is unable to accept the child into its
27 program due to the center's limited capacity. Requires
28 the district office of the Department of Children and
29 Family Services to inform each appropriate
30 community-based care lead agency of the licensing
31 capacity of quality child care centers in the district.