

By the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and
Senator Wilson

586-2392-07

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to public child care; amending
3 s. 402.301, F.S.; providing legislative intent
4 that children meeting certain requirements be
5 given first priority for placement into the
6 Gold Seal Quality Care Program; requiring the
7 licensing entity for each district within the
8 program to ensure compliance with such
9 legislative intent by developing processes for
10 receiving feedback and addressing complaints;
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 (8) is added to section 402.301,
16 Florida Statutes, to read:
17 402.301 Child care facilities; legislative intent and
18 declaration of purpose and policy.--It is the legislative
19 intent to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the
20 children of the state and to promote their emotional and
21 intellectual development and care. Toward that end:
22 (8) It is the intent of the Legislature that a public
23 child care center designated as a Gold Seal Quality Care
24 facility under s. 402.281 allow children who have not attained
25 the age of eligibility for kindergarten and who are under the
26 jurisdiction of a circuit court of this state due to a
27 documented case of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to
28 receive first priority for placement. To the extent that this
29 subsection creates a conflict with a priority placement
30 pursuant to s. 411.01(6), a child who is at least 3 years of
31 age but who has not yet attained the age of eligibility for

1 kindergarten shall have first priority for placement. The
2 licensing entity for each district shall ensure compliance
3 with this subsection by developing a process for consumers to
4 provide feedback and an administrative process for addressing
5 complaints which ensure that child care providers holding as
6 Gold Seal Quality Care designation comply with the legislative
7 intent of this subsection.

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

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10 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
11 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
12 Senate Bill 2400

13 The committee substitute (CS) clarifies the intent language
14 relating to priority placement in public Gold Seal Quality
15 Care facilities; specifically, it identifies the target
16 population as children who are under the jurisdiction of the
17 circuit court due to a documented case of abuse. The CS
18 deletes the alternative for priority placement in programs
19 that are high quality pursuant to an alternate rating system.
20 The CS deletes the requirement that a facility notify a
21 child's guardian if it is unable to accept the child, as well
22 as the requirement that the Department of Children and
23 Families provide information about capacity levels of quality
24 facilities. The CS includes a provision addressing potential
25 conflicts over priority placements, and a provision as to how
26 the licensing entity in each district shall ensure compliance
27 with the section.
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