

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

590-2611-07

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public child care; amending s. 402.301, F.S.; providing legislative intent that children meeting certain requirements be given first priority for placement into the Gold Seal Quality Care Program; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (8) is added to section 402.301, Florida Statutes, to read:

402.301 Child care facilities; legislative intent and declaration of purpose and policy.--It is the legislative intent to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the children of the state and to promote their emotional and intellectual development and care. Toward that end:

(8) It is the intent of the Legislature that a child care center designated as a Gold Seal Quality Care facility under s. 402.281 allow children who have not attained the age of eligibility for kindergarten and who are under the jurisdiction of a circuit court of this state due to a documented case of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to receive first priority for placement. To the extent that this subsection creates a conflict with a priority placement pursuant to s. 411.01(6), a child who is at least 3 years of age but who has not yet attained the age of eligibility for kindergarten shall have first priority for placement.

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

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
CS for SB 2400

The committee substitute:

- Removes the word "public" so that the bill provides that it is the intent of the Legislature that any child care center designated as a Gold Seal Quality Care facility allow specified children first priority for placement.
- Deletes language requiring the licensing entity in each district to develop a process for consumer feedback and an administrative process to address complaints.