

HB 1021

2008

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the prekindergarten education pilot
3 program; establishing the pilot program to enhance the
4 quality of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
5 Program; specifying counties and providing requirements
6 for individual participants; providing for voluntary
7 participation by prekindergarten providers; providing
8 duties of the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend
9 Region and community colleges; authorizing application for
10 funding; providing an effective date.

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

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14 Section 1. Pilot program to enhance the quality of the
15 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.--

16 (1) There is established a 3-year coordinated pilot
17 program in Leon, Gadsden, Liberty, Wakulla, Taylor, Madison, and
18 Jefferson Counties. The purpose of the pilot program is to
19 enhance the quality of Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten
20 Education Program by providing individuals who hold a
21 baccalaureate or higher degree with the opportunity to teach in
22 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.

23 (2) (a) An individual participating in the pilot program
24 must complete a curriculum that is developed by the Early
25 Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region in consultation with a
26 community college in the pilot program region. The curriculum
27 shall provide each participant with early education training

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28 that is designed to enhance the quality of the prekindergarten
29 education program and with necessary health and safety training.

30 (b) Participation in the pilot program by prekindergarten
31 education providers is voluntary.

32 (3) The pilot program shall be administered by the Early
33 Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region. The coalition shall
34 recruit participants, determine required training, and provide
35 placement assistance for individual and prekindergarten provider
36 participants.

37 (4) The Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region
38 may apply for appropriate grants and funding for implementation
39 of the pilot program. Implementation of the pilot program is not
40 required until such funding has been secured.

41 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.