

By Senator Dean

3-03357A-08

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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 the coalition
10 to apply for and secure grants and funding before
11 implementing the pilot program; providing an effective
12 date.

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

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16 Section 1. Pilot program to enhance the quality of the
17 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.--

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

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

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30 is designed to enhance the quality of the prekindergarten
31 education program and with necessary health and safety training.

32 (b) Participation in the pilot program by prekindergarten
33 education providers is voluntary.

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

39 (4) The Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region is
40 authorized to apply for appropriate grants and funding to
41 implement the pilot program. Implementation of the pilot program
42 is not required until such funding has been secured.

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