A bill to be entitled 1 2 An act relating to children with disabilities; amending s. 3 393.063, F.S.; redefining the term "developmental 4 disability" and defining the term "Down syndrome"; 5 creating s. 456.0291, F.S.; requiring certain licensing 6 boards to require continuing education on developmental 7 disabilities for certain licensees and certificateholders; 8 providing course content; providing penalties; providing 9 rulemaking authority; requiring the Department of Health 10 to develop and implement a plan to promote awareness of developmental disabilities; amending s. 627.6686, F.S.; 11 providing health insurance coverage for individuals with 12 developmental disabilities; amending s. 641.31098, F.S.; 13 14 providing coverage under a health maintenance contract for 15 individuals with developmental disabilities; amending s. 16 1002.39, F.S., relating to the John M. McKay Scholarships 17 for Students with Disabilities Program; authorizing students who receive certain services under the Voluntary 18 19 Prekindergarten Education Program to receive a John M. 20 McKay Scholarship; conforming cross-references; requiring 21 a private school to refund scholarship payment under 22 certain circumstances; permitting students to receive 23 scholarship services at locations other than the private 24 school's site under specified conditions; providing 25 retroactive eligibility for scholarships under certain 26 circumstances; amending s. 1002.51, F.S.; revising 27 definitions for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education 28 Program; amending s. 1002.53 and creating s. 1002.66,

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F.S.; establishing a prekindergarten program option for children with disabilities; providing eligibility criteria for early intervention services; providing for the approval of early intervention service providers; authorizing the expenditure of funds for early intervention services; amending s. 1002.71, F.S.; authorizing a child participating in a prekindergarten program for children with disabilities to reenroll in another program option under certain conditions; amending s. 1002.75, F.S.; revising the powers and duties of the Agency for Workforce Innovation for prekindergarten programs; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Present subsections (13) through (40) of section 393.063, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (14) through (41), respectively, subsection (9) of that section is amended, and a new subsection (13) is added to that section, to read:

393.063 Definitions.--For the purposes of this chapter, the term:

(9) "Developmental disability" means a disorder or syndrome that is attributable to retardation, cerebral palsy, autism, spina bifida, <u>Down syndrome</u>, or Prader-Willi syndrome; that manifests before the age of 18; and that constitutes a substantial handicap that can reasonably be expected to continue indefinitely.

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(13) "Down syndrome" means a disorder caused by the presence of an extra chromosome 21 and characterized by mental retardation and distinguishing physical features.

Section 2. Section 456.0291, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

456.0291 Instruction on developmental disabilities.--

- (1) The appropriate board shall require each person licensed or certified under chapter 458, chapter 459, part I of chapter 464, chapter 490, or chapter 491 to complete a 2-hour continuing education course, approved by the board, on developmental disabilities, as defined in s. 393.063, with the addition of autism spectrum disorder, as part of every third biennial relicensure or recertification.
- (a) The course shall consist of information on the diagnosis and treatment of developmental disabilities and information on counseling and education of a parent whose child is diagnosed with a developmental disability, with an emphasis on autism spectrum disorder.
- (b) Each such licensee or certificateholder shall submit confirmation of having completed the course, on a form provided by the board, when submitting fees for every third biennial renewal.
- (c) The board may approve additional equivalent courses that may be used to satisfy the requirements of this section.

 Each licensing board that requires a licensee to complete an educational course pursuant to this subsection may include the hours required for completion of the course in the total hours of continuing education required for such profession unless the

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continuing education requirements for such profession is less than 30 hours biennially.

- (d) Any person holding two or more licenses subject to the provisions of this subsection may show proof of having taken one board-approved course on developmental disabilities for purposes of relicensure or recertification for any additional licenses.
- (e) Failure to comply with the requirements of this subsection constitutes grounds for disciplinary action under each respective practice act and under s. 456.072(1)(k). In addition to any discipline imposed, the licensee must complete the course.
- (2) Each board may adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.
- awareness of developmental disabilities, with a focus on autism spectrum disorder, to physicians licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 and parents. The department shall develop the plan in consultation with organizations representing allopathic and osteopathic physicians, the Board of Medicine, the Board of Osteopathic Medicine, and nationally recognized organizations that promote awareness of developmental disabilities. The department's plan must include the distribution of educational materials for parents, including a developmental assessment tool.
- Section 3. Subsection (2) and (3) of section 627.6686, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 627.6686 Coverage for individuals with autism spectrum disorder required; exception.--

- (2) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Applied behavior analysis" means the design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including, but not limited to, the use of direct observation, measurement, and functional analysis of the relations between environment and behavior.
- (b) "Autism spectrum disorder" means any of the following disorders as defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association:
 - 1. Autistic disorder.

- 2. Asperger's syndrome.
- 3. Pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified.
- (c) "Developmental disability" has the same meaning as in s. 393.063.
- (d) (e) "Eligible individual" means an individual under 18 years of age or an individual 18 years of age or older who is in high school and who has been diagnosed as having a developmental disability at 8 years of age or younger.
- (e) (d) "Health insurance plan" means a group health insurance policy or group health benefit plan offered by an insurer which includes the state group insurance program provided under s. 110.123. The term does not include any health insurance plan offered in the individual market, any health insurance plan that is individually underwritten, or any health

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insurance plan provided to a small employer.

- $\underline{\text{(f)}}$ "Insurer" means an insurer providing health insurance coverage, which is licensed to engage in the business of insurance in this state and is subject to insurance regulation.
- (3) A health insurance plan issued or renewed on or after April 1, 2009, shall provide coverage to an eligible individual for:
- (a) Well-baby and well-child screening for diagnosing the presence of autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities.
- (b) Treatment of autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities through speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and applied behavior analysis.

 Applied behavior analysis services shall be provided by an individual certified pursuant to s. 393.17 or an individual licensed under chapter 490 or chapter 491.
- Section 4. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 641.31098, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 641.31098 Coverage for individuals with developmental disabilities.--
 - (2) As used in this section, the term:
- (a) "Applied behavior analysis" means the design, implementation, and evaluation of environmental modifications, using behavioral stimuli and consequences, to produce socially significant improvement in human behavior, including, but not limited to, the use of direct observation, measurement, and functional analysis of the relations between environment and

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- (b) "Autism spectrum disorder" means any of the following disorders as defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association:
 - 1. Autistic disorder.
 - 2. Asperger's syndrome.
- 3. Pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified.
- (c) "Developmental disability" has the same meaning as in s. 393.063.
- (d) (e) "Eligible individual" means an individual under 18 years of age or an individual 18 years of age or older who is in high school who has been diagnosed as having a developmental disability at 8 years of age or younger.
- (e) (d) "Health maintenance contract" means a group health maintenance contract offered by a health maintenance organization. This term does not include a health maintenance contract offered in the individual market, a health maintenance contract that is individually underwritten, or a health maintenance contract provided to a small employer.
- (3) A health maintenance contract issued or renewed on or after April 1, 2009, shall provide coverage to an eligible individual for:
- (a) Well-baby and well-child screening for diagnosing the presence of autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disability.
 - (b) Treatment of autism spectrum disorder or other

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developmental disability through speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and applied behavior analysis services. Applied behavior analysis services shall be provided by an individual certified pursuant to s. 393.17 or an individual licensed under chapter 490 or chapter 491.

Section 5. Subsection (2), paragraph (h) of subsection (3), paragraph (a) of subsection (4), paragraph (d) of subsection (8), and subsection (10) of section 1002.39, Florida Statutes, are amended, present subsections (11), (12), and (13) of that section are renumbered as subsections (12), (13), and (14), respectively, and new subsection (11) is added to that section, to read:

1002.39 The John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program.—There is established a program that is separate and distinct from the Opportunity Scholarship Program and is named the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program.

- (2) JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.--The parent of a public school student with a disability who is dissatisfied with the student's progress may request and receive from the state a John M. McKay Scholarship for the child to enroll in and attend a private school in accordance with this section if:
 - (a) The student has:

1. Received early intervention services under the

Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.

1002.66 during the previous school year, and the student has a current individual educational plan developed in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education; or

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2. Spent the prior school year in attendance at a Florida public school or the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. For purposes of this subparagraph, prior school year in attendance means that the student was:

- 1. enrolled and reported by:
- <u>a.</u> A school district for funding during the preceding October and February Florida Education Finance Program surveys in kindergarten through grade 12, which <u>includes</u> shall include time spent in a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program if funded under the Florida Education Finance Program;
- $\underline{\text{b.2.}}$ Enrolled and reported by The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind during the preceding October and February student membership surveys in kindergarten through grade 12; or
- $\underline{\text{c.3.}}$ Enrolled and reported by A school district for funding during the preceding October and February Florida Education Finance Program surveys, was at least 4 years old when so enrolled and reported, and was eligible for services under s. 1003.21(1) (e).

- However, a dependent child of a member of the United States

 Armed Forces who transfers to a school in this state from out of state or from a foreign country <u>due to pursuant to</u> a parent's permanent change of station orders is exempt from this paragraph but must meet all other eligibility requirements to participate in the program.
- (b) The parent has obtained acceptance for admission of the student to a private school that is eligible for the program under subsection (8) and has requested from the department a

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scholarship at least 60 days <u>before</u> prior to the date of the first scholarship payment. The request must be <u>communicated</u> through a communication directly to the department in a manner that creates a written or electronic record of the request and the date of receipt of the request. The department of Education must notify the district of the parent's intent upon receipt of the parent's request.

- (3) JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP PROHIBITIONS. -- A student is not eligible for a John M. McKay Scholarship while he or she is:
- (h) Not having regular and direct contact with his or her private school teachers at the school's physical location, except as provided in subsection (11).
 - (4) TERM OF JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP. --

- (a) For purposes of continuity of educational choice, a John M. McKay Scholarship remains shall remain in force until the student enrolls in returns to a public school, graduates from high school, or reaches the age of 22, whichever occurs first.
- (8) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.--To be eligible to participate in the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, a private school may be sectarian or nonsectarian and must:
- (d) Maintain in this state a physical location where a scholarship student regularly attends classes <u>or where the school provides case management services pursuant to subsection</u> (11).

The inability of a private school to meet the requirements of

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this subsection shall constitute a basis for the ineligibility of the private school to participate in the scholarship program as determined by the department.

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- (10) JOHN M. MCKAY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING AND PAYMENT .--
- (a)1. The maximum scholarship granted for an eligible student with disabilities shall be a calculated amount equivalent to the base student allocation in the Florida Education Finance Program multiplied by the appropriate cost factor for the educational program that would have been provided for the student in the district school to which he or she was assigned, multiplied by the district cost differential.
- In addition, a share of the quaranteed allocation for exceptional students shall be determined and added to the calculated amount in subparagraph 1. The calculation shall be based on the methodology and the data used to calculate the quaranteed allocation for exceptional students for each district in chapter 2000-166, Laws of Florida. Except as provided in subparagraphs 3. and 4., the calculation shall be based on the student's grade, matrix level of services, and the difference between the 2000-2001 basic program and the appropriate level of services cost factor, multiplied by the 2000-2001 base student allocation and the 2000-2001 district cost differential for the sending district. Also, The calculated amount shall also include the per-student share of supplemental academic instruction funds, instructional materials funds, technology funds, and other categorical funds as provided for such purposes in the General Appropriations Act.
 - 3. The calculated scholarship amount for a student who is

eligible under <u>sub-subparagraph (2)(a)2.b.</u> <u>subparagraph (2)(a)2.</u> shall be calculated as provided in subparagraphs 1. and 2. However, the calculation shall be based on the school district in which the parent resides at the time of the scholarship request.

- 4. Until the school district completes the matrix required by paragraph (5)(b), the calculation shall be based on the matrix that assigns the student to support level I of service as it existed prior to the 2000-2001 school year. When the school district completes the matrix, the amount of the payment shall be adjusted as needed.
- (b) The amount of the John M. McKay Scholarship shall be the calculated amount or the amount of the private school's tuition and fees, whichever is less. The amount of any assessment fee required by the participating private school may be paid from the total amount of the scholarship.
- (c)1. The school district shall report all students who are attending a private school under this program. The students with disabilities attending private schools on John M. McKay Scholarships shall be reported separately from other students reported for purposes of the Florida Education Finance Program.
- 2. For program participants who are eligible under <u>sub-subparagraph (2)(a)2.b.</u> <u>subparagraph (2)(a)2.</u>, the school district that is used as the basis for the calculation of the scholarship amount as provided in subparagraph (a)3. shall:
- a. Report to the department all such students who are attending a private school under this program.
 - b. Be held harmless for such students from the weighted

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enrollment ceiling for group 2 programs in s. 1011.62(1)(d)3.b. during the first school year in which the students are reported.

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- (d) Following notification on July 1, September 1, December 1, or February 1 of the number of program participants, the department shall transfer, from General Revenue funds only, the amount calculated under paragraph (b) from the school district's total funding entitlement under the Florida Education Finance Program and from authorized categorical accounts to a separate account for the scholarship program for quarterly disbursement to the parents of participating students. Funds may not be transferred from any funding provided to the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind for program participants who are eligible under sub-subparagraph (2)(a)2.b. subparagraph (2)(a)2. For a student exiting a Department of Juvenile Justice commitment program who chooses to participate in the scholarship program, the amount of the John M. McKay Scholarship calculated pursuant to paragraph (b) shall be transferred from the school district in which the student last attended a public school before prior to commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice. When a student enters the scholarship program, the department must receive all documentation required for the student's participation, including the private school's and the student's fee schedules, at least 30 days before the first quarterly scholarship payment is made for the student.
- (e) Upon notification by the department that it has received the documentation required under paragraph (d), the Chief Financial Officer shall make scholarship payments in four equal amounts no later than September 1, November 1, February 1,

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and April 1 of each academic year in which the scholarship is in force. The initial payment shall be made after department verification of admission acceptance, and subsequent payments shall be made upon verification of continued enrollment and attendance at the private school. Payment must be by individual warrant made payable to the student's parent and mailed by the department to the private school of the parent's choice, and the parent shall restrictively endorse the warrant to the private school for deposit into the account of the private school. If the student withdraws from the private school, the private school shall prorate the unused portion of the scholarship payment and refund that amount to the department. If the student immediately transfers to another private school, the unused amount of the scholarship may be paid to the new school.

- (f) Subsequent to each scholarship payment, the department shall request from the Department of Financial Services a sample of endorsed warrants to review and confirm compliance with endorsement requirements.
- (11) ALTERNATIVE SITES FOR INSTRUCTION AND SERVICES.--A student who is eligible for a scholarship under this section may receive regular and direct instruction and services from a private school at a site other than the school's physical location if the following criteria are met:
- (a) The student's parent provides a notarized statement from the medical doctor or psychologist treating the student's disability which documents that the student's welfare, or the welfare of other students in the classroom, will be jeopardized if the student is required to regularly attend class at the

school's physical location. The notarized statement must be:

- 1. Annually provided to the department at least 60 days before the first scholarship payment date for the school year; and
- 2. Based on an annual review of the student's disability by the student's medical doctor or psychologist.
 - (b) The private school serving the student:
- 1. Employs or contracts with a case manager who coordinates and monitors the student's instruction and services, reviews and maintains the documentation submitted under subparagraph 2., and provides the student's parent and private school with monthly reports on the student's progress;
- 2. Requires private school employees or contracted personnel who provide regular and direct instruction or services to the student at the alternative site to submit documentation of the instruction, services, and progress of the student to the case manager; and
- 3. Notifies the department of each student served pursuant to this subsection.
- (c) A student who received a scholarship in the 2005-2006 or 2006-2007 school year under this section, but who was unable to receive a scholarship in the 2006-2007 or 2007-2008 school year due to the regular and direct contact requirement in paragraph (3)(h), is eligible for a scholarship in the 2009-2010 school year if the student:
- 1. Demonstrates that he or she would have met the criteria in paragraph (a) at the time of his or her 2006-2007 or 2007-2008 scholarship; and

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

121	2. Except for the prior school year attendance requirement
122	in paragraph (2)(a), satisfies the requirements for a
123	scholarship under this section.
124	Section 6. Present subsections (2) through (5) of section
125	1002.51, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4)
126	through (7), respectively, and new subsections (2) and (3) are
127	added to that section, to read:
128	1002.51 DefinitionsAs used in this part, the term:
129	(2) "Disability" means any disability listed in the
130	definition of exceptional student in s. 1003.01.
131	(3) "Early intervention service provider" means a provider
132	delivering early intervention services under s. 1002.66.
133	Section 7. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 1002.53,
134	Florida Statutes, as amended by section 4 of chapter 2009-3,
135	Laws of Florida, are amended to read:
136	1002.53 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program;
137	eligibility and enrollment
138	(1) There is created the Voluntary Prekindergarten
139	Education Program, which. The program shall take effect in each
140	county at the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year and shall
141	be organized, designed, and delivered in accordance with s. 1(b)
142	and (c), Art. IX of the State Constitution.
143	(3) The parent of each child eligible under subsection (2)
144	may enroll the child in one of the following programs:
145	(a) A school-year prekindergarten program delivered by a
146	private prekindergarten provider under s. 1002.55;
147	(b) A summer prekindergarten program delivered by a public

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school or private prekindergarten provider under s. 1002.61; $\frac{1}{1000}$

(c) A school-year prekindergarten program delivered by a public school; or

(d) Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, a prekindergarten program for children with disabilities, if the child has a disability and is eligible for the program under s. 1002.66.

- Except as provided in s. 1002.71(4), a child may not enroll in more than one of these programs.
- Section 8. Section 1002.66, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
 - 1002.66 Prekindergarten program for children with disabilities.--
 - (1) Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, a child with a disability who enrolls with the early learning coalition under s. 1002.53(3)(d) is eligible for a prekindergarten program of early intervention services if:
 - (a) The child is eligible for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under s. 1002.53.
 - (b) A current individual educational plan has been developed for the child in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education.
 - (2) The parent of a child who is eligible for the prekindergarten program for children with disabilities may select one or more early intervention services that the child's individual educational plan indicates is appropriate for the child. These early intervention services may include, but are not limited to:

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(a) Applied behavior analysis.

- (b) Speech-language pathology.
- (c) Occupational therapy.
- (d) Physical therapy.

- (3) The early intervention services provided for a child under this section must be delivered according to professionally accepted standards and must, in accordance with the performance standards adopted by the department under s. 1002.67, address the age-appropriate progress of the child in the development of the capabilities, capacities, and skills required under s. 1(b), Art. IX of the State Constitution.
- (4) The department shall approve early intervention service providers whose services meet the standards in subsection (3), maintain a list of approved providers, and notify each school district and early learning coalition of the approved provider list. Upon the request of a child's parent, the department may approve an early intervention service provider that is not on the approved list if the provider's services meet the standards in subsection (3) and the child's individual educational plan indicates that the services are appropriate for the child.
- (5) From the funds allocated to the early learning coalition for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, the coalition shall reimburse an approved early intervention service provider for authorized services provided to an eligible child, except that the cumulative total of services reimbursed for a child may not exceed the amount of the base student allocation provided in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education

Program in the General Appropriations Act.

Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 1002.71, Florida Statutes, as amended by chapter 2009-3, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting .--

- (4) Notwithstanding s. 1002.53(3) and subsection (2):
- (a) A child who, for any of the prekindergarten programs listed in s. 1002.53(3), has not completed more than 10 percent of the hours authorized to be reported for funding under subsection (2), or has not expended more than 10 percent of the funds authorized for the child under s. 1002.66, may withdraw from the program for good cause, reenroll in one of the programs, and be reported for funding purposes as a full-time equivalent student in the program in for which the child is reenrolled. The total funding for a child who reenrolls in one of the programs may shall not exceed one full-time equivalent student.

A child may reenroll only once in a prekindergarten program under this section. A child who reenrolls in a prekindergarten program under this subsection may not subsequently withdraw from the program and reenroll. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall establish criteria specifying whether a good cause exists for a child to withdraw from a program under paragraph (a), whether a child has substantially completed a program under paragraph (b), and whether an extreme hardship exists which is beyond the child's or parent's control under paragraph (b).

Section 10. Paragraphs (a) and (f) of subsection (2) of

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section 1002.75, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.75 Agency for Workforce Innovation; powers and duties; operational requirements.--

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- (2) The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt procedures governing the administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program by the early learning coalitions and school districts for:
- (a) Enrolling children in and determining the eligibility of children for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program under ss. 1002.53 and 1002.66 s. 1002.53.
- (f) Paying private prekindergarten providers, and public schools, and early intervention service providers under ss. 1002.66 and 1002.71 s. 1002.71.
 - Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.