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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: UNFAV	.	
04/07/2010	.	
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The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs (Rich) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment

Delete lines 520 - 531
and insert:

(d) It is the intent of the Legislature that the administrative staff for school readiness programs be kept to the minimum necessary to administer the program. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall implement system support services at the state level to build a comprehensive early learning system and each early learning coalition shall design, operate, and manage direct enhancement services at the local level. The Agency for Workforce Innovation and early learning coalitions



711000

13 shall ensure that families are able to register for, and that
14 the school readiness program is administered in, each county
15 within the state. ~~the duties of the Agency for Workforce~~
16 ~~Innovation, as the school readiness programs are to be~~
17 ~~regionally designed, operated, and managed, with the Agency for~~
18 ~~Workforce Innovation developing school readiness program~~
19 ~~performance standards and outcome measures and approving and~~
20 ~~reviewing early learning coalitions and school readiness plans.~~

21
22 Delete lines 748 - 913

23 and insert:

24 1. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall establish the
25 minimum number of children to be served by each early learning
26 coalition through the coalition's school readiness program. The
27 Agency for Workforce Innovation may only approve school
28 readiness plans in accordance with this minimum number. The
29 minimum number must be uniform for every early learning
30 coalition and must:

31 a. Permit 31 ~~30~~ or fewer coalitions to be established; and

32 b. Require each coalition to serve at least 2,000 children
33 based upon the average number of all children served per month
34 through the coalition's school readiness program during the
35 previous 12 months.

36
37 ~~The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall adopt procedures for~~
38 ~~merging early learning coalitions, including procedures for the~~
39 ~~consolidation of merging coalitions, and for the early~~
40 ~~termination of the terms of coalition members which are~~
41 ~~necessary to accomplish the mergers. Each early learning~~



711000

42 ~~coalition must comply with the merger procedures and shall be~~
43 ~~organized in accordance with this subparagraph by April 1, 2005.~~
44 ~~By June 30, 2005, each coalition must complete the transfer of~~
45 ~~powers, duties, functions, rules, records, personnel, property,~~
46 ~~and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and~~
47 ~~other funds to the successor coalition, if applicable.~~

48 2. If an early learning coalition would serve fewer
49 children than the minimum number established under subparagraph
50 1., the coalition must merge with another county to form a
51 multicounty coalition. The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall
52 adopt procedures for merging early learning coalitions,
53 including procedures for the consolidation of merging
54 coalitions, and for the early termination of the terms of
55 coalition members which are necessary to accomplish the mergers.

56 However, the Agency for Workforce Innovation may authorize an
57 early learning coalition to serve fewer children than the
58 minimum number established under subparagraph 1., if:

59 a. The coalition demonstrates to the Agency for Workforce
60 Innovation that merging with another county or multicounty
61 region contiguous to the coalition would cause an extreme
62 hardship on the coalition;

63 b. The Agency for Workforce Innovation has determined
64 during the most recent ~~annual~~ review of the coalition's school
65 readiness plan, or through monitoring and performance
66 evaluations conducted under paragraph (4)(1), that the coalition
67 has substantially implemented its plan and substantially met the
68 performance standards and outcome measures adopted by the
69 agency; and

70 c. The coalition demonstrates to the Agency for Workforce



711000

71 Innovation the coalition's ability to effectively and
72 efficiently implement the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
73 Program.

74
75 If an early learning coalition fails or refuses to merge as
76 required by this subparagraph, the Agency for Workforce
77 Innovation may dissolve the coalition and temporarily contract
78 with a qualified entity to continue school readiness and
79 prekindergarten services in the coalition's county or
80 multicounty region until the agency reestablishes the coalition
81 and a new is reestablished through resubmission of a school
82 readiness plan is approved and approval by the agency.

83 ~~3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraphs 1. and~~
84 ~~2., the early learning coalitions in Sarasota, Osceola, and~~
85 ~~Santa Rosa Counties which were in operation on January 1, 2005,~~
86 ~~are established and authorized to continue operation as~~
87 ~~independent coalitions, and shall not be counted within the~~
88 ~~limit of 30 coalitions established in subparagraph 1.~~

89 ~~3.4.~~ Each early learning coalition shall be composed of at
90 least 15 ~~18~~ members but not more than 30 ~~35~~ members. The Agency
91 for Workforce Innovation shall adopt standards establishing
92 within this range the minimum and maximum number of members that
93 may be appointed to an early learning coalition and procedures
94 for identifying which members have voting privileges under
95 subparagraph 5. These standards must include variations for a
96 coalition serving a multicounty region. Each early learning
97 coalition must comply with these standards.

98 ~~4.5.~~ The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other
99 members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the



711000

100 same qualifications as private sector business members appointed
101 by the coalition under subparagraph 6 7.

102 ~~5.6.~~ Each early learning coalition must include the
103 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,
104 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple
105 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be
106 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has
107 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of
108 such members may serve as a voting member ~~members:~~

109 a. A Department of Children and Family Services circuit
110 ~~district~~ administrator or his or her designee who is authorized
111 to make decisions on behalf of the department.

112 b. A district superintendent of schools or his or her
113 designee who is authorized to make decisions on behalf of the
114 district, ~~who shall be a nonvoting member.~~

115 c. A regional workforce board executive director or his or
116 her designee.

117 d. A county health department director or his or her
118 designee.

119 e. A children's services council or juvenile welfare board
120 chair or executive director, if applicable, ~~who shall be a~~
121 ~~nonvoting member if the council or board is the fiscal agent of~~
122 ~~the coalition or if the council or board contracts with and~~
123 ~~receives funds from the coalition for any purpose other than~~
124 ~~rent.~~

125 f. An agency head of a local licensing agency as defined in
126 s. 402.302, where applicable.

127 g. A president of a community college or his or her
128 designee.



711000

129 h. One member appointed by a board of county commissioners
130 or the governing board of a municipality.

131 i. A central agency administrator, where applicable, ~~who~~
132 ~~shall be a nonvoting member.~~

133 j. A Head Start director, ~~who shall be a nonvoting member.~~

134 k. A representative of private for-profit child care
135 providers, including private for-profit family day care homes,
136 ~~who shall be a nonvoting member.~~

137 l. A representative of faith-based child care providers,
138 ~~who shall be a nonvoting member.~~

139 m. A representative of programs for children with
140 disabilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities
141 Education Act, ~~who shall be a nonvoting member.~~

142 ~~6.7.~~ Including the members appointed by the Governor under
143 subparagraph 4. 5., more than one-third of the members of each
144 early learning coalition must be private sector business members
145 who do not have, and none of whose relatives as defined in s.
146 112.3143 has, a substantial financial interest in the design or
147 delivery of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
148 created under part V of chapter 1002 or the coalition's school
149 readiness program. To meet this requirement an early learning
150 coalition must appoint additional members ~~from a list of~~
151 ~~nominees submitted to the coalition by a chamber of commerce or~~
152 ~~economic development council within the geographic region served~~
153 ~~by the coalition.~~ The Agency for Workforce Innovation shall
154 establish criteria for appointing private sector business
155 members. These criteria must include standards for determining
156 whether a member or relative has a substantial financial
157 interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary



711000

158 Prekindergarten Education Program or the coalition's school
159 readiness program.

160 ~~7.8.~~ A majority of the voting membership of an early
161 learning coalition constitutes a quorum required to conduct the
162 business of the coalition. An early learning coalition board may
163 use any method of telecommunications to conduct meetings,
164 including establishing a quorum through telecommunications,
165 provided that the public is given proper notice of a
166 telecommunications meeting and reasonable access to observe and,
167 when appropriate, participate.

168 ~~8.9.~~ A voting member of an early learning coalition may not
169 appoint a designee to act in his or her place, except as
170 otherwise provided in this paragraph. A voting member may send a
171 representative to coalition meetings, but that representative
172 does not have voting privileges. When a district administrator
173 for the Department of Children and Family Services appoints a
174 designee to an early learning coalition, the designee is the
175 voting member of the coalition, and any individual attending in
176 the designee's place, including the district administrator, does
177 not have voting privileges.

178 ~~9.10.~~ Each member of an early learning coalition is subject
179 to ss. 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143. For purposes of s.
180 112.3143(3)(a), each voting member is a local public officer who
181 must abstain from voting when a voting conflict exists.

182 ~~10.11.~~ For purposes of tort liability, each member or
183 employee of an early learning coalition shall be governed by s.
184 768.28.

185 ~~11.12.~~ An early learning coalition serving a multicounty
186 region must include representation from each county.



711000

187 12.13. Each early learning coalition shall establish terms
188 for