

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	<u>      </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	<u>      </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	<u>      </u>	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	<u>      </u>	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	<u>      </u>	(Y/N)
OTHER	<u>      </u>	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Choice & Innovation  
2 Subcommittee

3 Representative Lee offered the following:

**Amendment (with title amendment)**

6 Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

7 Section 1. (1) The Office of Early Learning shall  
8 establish the 5-year Literacy Jump Start Pilot Project in St.  
9 Lucie County to assist low-income, at-risk children in  
10 developing emergent literacy skills.

11 (a) The Office of Early Learning shall consult with local  
12 organizations within St. Lucie County and identify an  
13 organization to implement the pilot project. The office shall  
14 also consult with the Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie  
15 County to select municipalities within St. Lucie County eligible  
16 for participation in the pilot project. The office shall oversee  
17 the implementation of the pilot project.

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18 (b) A municipality is eligible for participation in the  
19 pilot project if locally or federally subsidized housing is  
20 located within the municipality.

21 (c) The Office of Early Learning shall select to implement  
22 the pilot project a local organization that is a not-for-profit  
23 corporation, qualified as charitable under s. 501(c)(3) of the  
24 Internal Revenue Code, that provides training to parents to  
25 assist their children with success in school, such as the Parent  
26 Academy of St. Lucie County or another similarly qualified local  
27 organization. The office may select a faith-based organization;  
28 however, funds provided for the purpose of implementing the  
29 pilot project may be used for only those purposes expressly  
30 provided in this section and may not be used for the purpose of  
31 religious indoctrination.

32 (2) The organization selected by the Office of Early  
33 Learning must use funds provided for the pilot project only to  
34 provide emergent literacy instruction to children. In order to  
35 provide easy access for participating children and families, the  
36 instruction must be provided in a subsidized housing unit  
37 located within an eligible municipality selected by the office.

38 (3) As used in this section, the term "emergent literacy"  
39 means a variety of early behaviors and skills associated with  
40 successful reading and writing development.

41 (4) A child is eligible to receive emergent literacy  
42 instruction provided through the pilot project only if the child  
43 is:

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44 (a) Two or 3 years of age;

45 (b) Eligible for a federally subsidized child care  
46 program; and

47 (c) A member of a family that is economically  
48 disadvantaged and resides in locally or federally subsidized  
49 housing. For purposes of this paragraph, "economically  
50 disadvantaged" means having a family income that does not exceed  
51 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

52 (5) The organization selected by the Office of Early  
53 Learning may not receive any funds from the state for purposes  
54 of implementing the pilot project until the office receives  
55 written certification from the organization and confirms that  
56 all of the organization's volunteers, instructors, and  
57 noninstructional personnel who make direct contact with children  
58 have cleared level 2 background screening pursuant to s. 435.04,  
59 Florida Statutes, within 5 years before implementation of the  
60 pilot project. The organization shall require volunteers and  
61 applicants for employment as instructors or noninstructional  
62 personnel who make direct contact with children participating in  
63 the pilot project to undergo level 2 background screening  
64 pursuant to s. 435.04, Florida Statutes, prior to hiring the  
65 applicant or allowing the volunteer to participate in the pilot  
66 project. The organization may not use state funds provided to  
67 implement the pilot project to pay for background screening.

68 (6) An instructor in the pilot project must successfully  
69 complete an emergent literacy training course, approved by the

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70 Office of Early Learning, prior to providing emergent literacy  
71 instruction under this section.

72 (7) The organization is encouraged to coordinate with the  
73 St. Lucie County Health Department for the provision of basic  
74 health screening and immunization services for children  
75 participating in the pilot project in conjunction with emergent  
76 literacy instruction. The organization is further encouraged to  
77 engage in community outreach efforts to local community service  
78 organizations for the purpose of improving the availability and  
79 effective delivery of emergent literacy instruction.

80 (8) By December 31 of each year that the organization  
81 provides emergent literacy instruction, the organization shall  
82 submit an accountability report to the Office of Early Learning,  
83 the Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County, the Governor,  
84 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
85 Representatives. The accountability report must include, at  
86 minimum, the following information:

87 (a) The manner in which all state funds received by the  
88 organization are used to implement the pilot project, separated  
89 by type of expenditure and measured in exact dollar amounts.

90 (b) Other sources of funding received by the organization  
91 for purposes of providing emergent literacy instruction.

92 (c) The municipalities selected by the Office of Early  
93 Learning for participation in the pilot project.

94 (d) The identities of the organization's officers.

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115       (e) The number of children receiving emergent literacy  
116 instruction in each municipality.

117       (f) Information and data relating to coordinated health  
118 screening and immunization services provided in conjunction with  
119 the emergent literacy instruction, if any.

120       (9) The Office of Early Learning shall allocate funds for  
121 implementation of the pilot project pursuant to this section.  
122 Expenditures of state funds pursuant to this section must be  
123 verified by affidavit submitted to the office in a procedure and  
124 format determined by the office.

125       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014.

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129                   **T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T**

130       Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:  
131       An act relating to the Literacy Jump Start Pilot Project;  
132       requiring the Office of Early Learning to establish the  
133       pilot project in St. Lucie County to assist low-income, at-  
134       risk children in developing emergent literacy skills;  
135       requiring the office to select an organization to implement  
136       the pilot project; requiring the office to oversee  
137       implementation of the pilot project; providing eligibility  
138       requirements for participation; requiring background  
139       screening for instructors, volunteers, and noninstructional  
140       personnel who make direct contact with children; requiring

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121 emergent literacy training for instructors; encouraging the  
122 coordination of basic health screening and immunization  
123 services in conjunction with emergent literacy instruction;  
124 requiring annual submission of an accountability report;  
125 requiring the office to allocate funds for the pilot  
126 project; providing an effective date.