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A bill to be entitled An act relating to child welfare; amending s. 39.01, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "abuse"; amending s. 39.0138, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and Families to establish rules for granting exemptions from criminal history and certain other records checks required for persons being considered for placement of a child; requiring level 1 screening for persons granted such exemption; prohibiting placement of a child with persons convicted of a certain felony; amending s. 39.6012, F.S.; requiring parents to make proactive contact with case managers at regular intervals; amending s. 39.6013, F.S.; requiring the court to consider certain case details before amending a case plan; amending s. 39.621, F.S.; requiring the court, during permanency hearings, to determine case plan compliance; amending s. 39.701, F.S.; requiring the court, during judicial review hearings, to determine case plan compliance; amending s. 63.092, F.S.; requiring the department to release specified records to entities conducting preliminary home studies; providing that certain specified training is not required for certain home studies; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; revising minimum requirements for child care personnel related to

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screening and fingerprinting; requiring child care
facilities to provide information to parents intended
to prevent children from being left in vehicles;
specifying the minimum standards the department must
adopt regarding transportation of children by child
care facilities; amending ss. 402.313 and 402.3131,
F.S.; requiring family day care homes and large family
child care homes to provide information to parents
intended to prevent children from being left in
vehicles; amending s. 409.175, F.S.; defining the terr
"severe disability" and providing an exemption from
fingerprint requirements for adult household members
with severe disabilities; amending s. 409.991, F.S.;
revising the equity allocation formula for community-
based care lead agencies; amending s. 435.07, F.S.;
revising the offenses that disqualify certain child
care personnel from specified employment; amending ss
402.30501, 1002.55, 1002.57, and 1002.59, F.S.;
conforming cross-references; providing a directive to
the Division of Law Revision and Information;
providing an effective date.
Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 39.01, Florida

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Statutes, is amended to read:

- 39.01 Definitions.—When used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (2) "Abuse" means any willful act or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual abuse, injury, or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child's physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired. Abuse of a child includes the birth of a new child into a family during the course of an open dependency case when the parent or caregiver has been determined to lack the protective capacity to safely care for the children in the home and has not substantially complied with the case plan towards successful reunification or met the conditions for return of the children into the home. Abuse of a child includes acts or omissions. Corporal discipline of a child by a parent or legal custodian for disciplinary purposes does not in itself constitute abuse when it does not result in harm to the child.
- Section 2. Subsections (2) through (7) of section 39.0138, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3) through (8), respectively, present subsections (2) and (3) are amended, and a new subsection (2) is added to that section, to read:
- $39.0138\,$ Criminal history and other records checks; limit on placement of a child.—
- (2) (a) The department shall establish rules for granting an exemption from the fingerprinting requirements under

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subsection (1) for a household member who has a physical, developmental, or cognitive disability that prevents that person from safely submitting fingerprints.

- (b) Before granting an exemption, the department or its designee shall assess and document the physical, developmental, or cognitive limitations that justified the exemption and the effect of such limitations on the safety and well-being of the child being placed in the home.
- (c) If a fingerprint exemption is granted, a level 1 screening pursuant to s. 435.03 shall be completed on the person who is granted the exemption.
- (3)(2) The department may not place a child with a person other than a parent if the criminal history records check reveals that the person has been convicted of any felony that falls within any of the following categories:
 - (a) Child abuse, abandonment, or neglect;
 - (b) Domestic violence;

- (c) Child pornography or other felony in which a child was a victim of the offense; or
- (d) Homicide, sexual battery, or other felony involving violence, other than felony assault or felony battery when an adult was the victim of the assault or battery, or resisting arrest with violence.
- (4) (3) The department may not place a child with a person other than a parent if the criminal history records check

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101	reveals that the person has, within the previous 5 years, been
102	convicted of a felony that falls within any of the following
103	categories:
104	(a) Assault;
105	(b) Battery; or
106	(c) A drug-related offense; or
107	(d) Resisting arrest with violence.
108	Section 3. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (1) of
109	section 39.6012, Florida Statutes, to read:
110	39.6012 Case plan tasks; services.—
111	(1) The services to be provided to the parent and the
112	tasks that must be completed are subject to the following:
113	(d) Parents must provide accurate contact information to
114	the department or the contracted case management agency, and
115	update as appropriate, and make proactive contact with the
116	department of the contracted case management agency at least
117	every 14 calendar days to provide information on the status of
118	case plan task completion, barriers to completion, and plans
119	toward reunification.
120	Section 4. Subsections (6) and (7) of section 39.6013,
121	Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (7) and (8),
122	respectively, and a new subsection (6) is added to that section,
123	to read:
124	39.6013 Case plan amendments.—
125	(6) When determining whether to amend the case plan the

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126	court must consider the length of time the case has been open,
127	the level of parental engagement to date, the number of case
128	plan tasks completed, the child's type of placement and
129	attachment, and the potential for successful reunification.
130	Section 5. Subsection (5) of section 39.621, Florida
131	Statutes, is amended to read:
132	39.621 Permanency determination by the court
133	(5) At the permanency hearing, the court shall determine:
134	(a) Whether the current permanency goal for the child is
135	appropriate or should be changed;
136	(b) When the child will achieve one of the permanency
137	goals; and
138	(c) Whether the department has made reasonable efforts to
139	finalize the permanency plan currently in effect; and
140	(d) Whether the frequency, duration, manner, and level of
141	engagement of the parent or legal guardian's visitation with the
142	child meets the case plan requirements.
143	Section 6. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section
144	39.701, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
145	39.701 Judicial review.—
146	(2) REVIEW HEARINGS FOR CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 18 YEARS OF
147	AGE.—
148	(d) Orders.—
149	1. Based upon the criteria set forth in paragraph (c) and
150	the recommended order of the citizen review panel, if any, the

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court shall determine whether or not the social service agency shall initiate proceedings to have a child declared a dependent child, return the child to the parent, continue the child in out-of-home care for a specified period of time, or initiate termination of parental rights proceedings for subsequent placement in an adoptive home. Amendments to the case plan must be prepared as prescribed in s. 39.6013. If the court finds that the prevention or reunification efforts of the department will allow the child to remain safely at home or be safely returned to the home, the court shall allow the child to remain in or return to the home after making a specific finding of fact that the reasons for the creation of the case plan have been remedied to the extent that the child's safety, well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional health will not be endangered.

- 2. The court shall return the child to the custody of the parents at any time it determines that they have substantially complied with the case plan, if the court is satisfied that reunification will not be detrimental to the child's safety, well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional health.
- 3. If, in the opinion of the court, the social service agency has not complied with its obligations as specified in the written case plan, the court may find the social service agency in contempt, shall order the social service agency to submit its plans for compliance with the agreement, and shall require the social service agency to show why the child could not safely be

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- 4. If, at any judicial review, the court finds that the parents have failed to substantially comply with the case plan to the degree that further reunification efforts are without merit and not in the best interest of the child, on its own motion, the court may order the filing of a petition for termination of parental rights, whether or not the time period as contained in the case plan for substantial compliance has expired.
- 5. Within 6 months after the date that the child was placed in shelter care, the court shall conduct a judicial review hearing to review the child's permanency goal as identified in the case plan. At the hearing the court shall make findings regarding the likelihood of the child's reunification with the parent or legal custodian. In making such findings, the court shall consider the level of the parent or legal custodian's compliance with the case plan and demonstrated change in protective capacities compared to that necessary to achieve timely reunification within 12 months after the removal of the child from the home. The court shall also consider the frequency, duration, manner, and level of engagement of the parent or legal custodian's visitation with the child in compliance with the case plan. If the court makes a written finding that it is not likely that the child will be reunified with the parent or legal custodian within 12 months after the

child was removed from the home, the department must file with the court, and serve on all parties, a motion to amend the case plan under s. 39.6013 and declare that it will use concurrent planning for the case plan. The department must file the motion within 10 business days after receiving the written finding of the court. The department must attach the proposed amended case plan to the motion. If concurrent planning is already being used, the case plan must document the efforts the department is taking to complete the concurrent goal.

- 6. The court may issue a protective order in assistance, or as a condition, of any other order made under this part. In addition to the requirements included in the case plan, the protective order may set forth requirements relating to reasonable conditions of behavior to be observed for a specified period of time by a person or agency who is before the court; and the order may require any person or agency to make periodic reports to the court containing such information as the court in its discretion may prescribe.
- Section 7. Paragraphs (b) and (e) of subsection (3) of section 63.092, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 63.092 Report to the court of intended placement by an adoption entity; at-risk placement; preliminary study.—
- (3) PRELIMINARY HOME STUDY.—Before placing the minor in the intended adoptive home, a preliminary home study must be performed by a licensed child-placing agency, a child-caring

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agency registered under s. 409.176, a licensed professional, or an agency described in s. 61.20(2), unless the adoptee is an adult or the petitioner is a stepparent or a relative. If the adoptee is an adult or the petitioner is a stepparent or a relative, a preliminary home study may be required by the court for good cause shown. The department is required to perform the preliminary home study only if there is no licensed childplacing agency, child-caring agency registered under s. 409.176, licensed professional, or agency described in s. 61.20(2), in the county where the prospective adoptive parents reside. The preliminary home study must be made to determine the suitability of the intended adoptive parents and may be completed prior to identification of a prospective adoptive minor. A favorable preliminary home study is valid for 1 year after the date of its completion. Upon its completion, a signed copy of the home study must be provided to the intended adoptive parents who were the subject of the home study. A minor may not be placed in an intended adoptive home before a favorable preliminary home study is completed unless the adoptive home is also a licensed foster home under s. 409.175. The preliminary home study must include, at a minimum:

(b) Records checks of the department's central abuse registry, which the department shall provide to the entity conducting the preliminary home study, and criminal records correspondence checks under s. 39.0138 through the Department of

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Law Enforcement on the intended adoptive parents;

(e) Documentation of counseling and education of the intended adoptive parents on adoptive parenting, as determined by the entity conducting the preliminary home study. The training specified in s. 409.175(14) shall only be required for persons who adopt children from the department;

If the preliminary home study is favorable, a minor may be placed in the home pending entry of the judgment of adoption. A minor may not be placed in the home if the preliminary home study is unfavorable. If the preliminary home study is unfavorable, the adoption entity may, within 20 days after receipt of a copy of the written recommendation, petition the court to determine the suitability of the intended adoptive home. A determination as to suitability under this subsection does not act as a presumption of suitability at the final hearing. In determining the suitability of the intended adoptive home, the court must consider the totality of the circumstances in the home. A minor may not be placed in a home in which there resides any person determined by the court to be a sexual predator as defined in s. 775.21 or to have been convicted of an offense listed in s. 63.089(4)(b)2.

Section 8. Paragraphs (b) through (f) of subsection (2) of section 402.305, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (c) through (g), respectively, paragraph (a) of

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subsection (2) and subsections (9) and (10) are amended, and a new paragraph (b) is added to that subsection (2), to read:

- 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.-
- (2) PERSONNEL.—Minimum standards for child care personnel shall include minimum requirements as to:
- (a) Good moral character based upon screening <u>as defined</u> in s. 402.302(15). This screening shall be conducted as provided in chapter 435, using the level 2 standards for screening set forth in that chapter, and include employment history checks, a search of criminal history records, sexual predator and sexual offender registries, and child abuse and neglect registry of any state in which the current or prospective child care personnel resided during the preceding 5 years.
- (b) Fingerprint submission for child care personnel, which shall comply with s. 435.12.
 - (9) ADMISSIONS AND RECORDKEEPING.-

- (a) Minimum standards shall include requirements for preadmission and periodic health examinations, requirements for immunizations, and requirements for maintaining emergency information and health records on all children.
- (b) During the months of August and September of each year, each child care facility shall provide parents of children enrolled in the facility detailed information regarding the causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus in an effort to educate those parents regarding the importance of

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immunizing their children against influenza as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- (c) During the months of April and September of each year, at a minimum, each facility shall provide parents of children enrolled in the facility information regarding the potential for a distracted adult to fail to drop off a child at the facility and instead leave the child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at the adult's destination. The child care facility shall also give parents information about resources with suggestions to avoid this occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer or brochure with this information that shall be posted to the department's website, which child care facilities may choose to reproduce and provide to parents to satisfy the requirements of this paragraph.
- (d) (e) Because of the nature and duration of drop-in child care, requirements for preadmission and periodic health examinations and requirements for medically signed records of immunization required for child care facilities shall not apply. A parent of a child in drop-in child care shall, however, be required to attest to the child's health condition and the type and current status of the child's immunizations.
- (e) (d) Any child shall be exempt from medical or physical examination or medical or surgical treatment upon written request of the parent or guardian of such child who objects to

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the examination and treatment. However, the laws, rules, and regulations relating to contagious or communicable diseases and sanitary matters shall not be violated because of any exemption from or variation of the health and immunization minimum standards.

- (10) TRANSPORTATION SAFETY.—Minimum standards shall include requirements for child restraints or seat belts in vehicles used by child care facilities and large family child care homes to transport children, requirements for annual inspections of the vehicles, limitations on the number of children in the vehicles, procedures to avoid leaving children in vehicles when transported by the facility, and accountability for children being transported by the child care facility. A child care facility is not responsible for children when they are transported by a parent or guardian.
- Section 9. Section 402.30501, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 402.30501 Modification of introductory child care course for community college credit authorized.—The Department of Children and Families may modify the 40-clock-hour introductory course in child care under s. 402.305 or s. 402.3131 to meet the requirements of articulating the course to community college credit. Any modification must continue to provide that the course satisfies the requirements of \underline{s} . $\underline{402.305(2)(e)}$ \underline{s} . $\underline{402.305(2)(d)}$.

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351 Section 10. Subsection (15) is added to section 402.313, 352 Florida Statutes, to read: 353 402.313 Family day care homes.-354 (15) During the months of April and September of each 355 year, at a minimum, each family day care home shall provide 356 parents of children attending the family day care home 357 information regarding the potential for a distracted adult to 358 fail to drop off a child at the family day care home and instead 359 leave the child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at the 360 adult's destination. The family day care home shall also give 361 parents information about resources with suggestions to avoid 362 this occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer or 363 brochure with this information that shall be posted to the 364 department's website, which family day care homes may choose to 365 reproduce and provide to parents to satisfy the requirements of 366 this subsection. 367 Section 11. Subsection (10) is added to section 402.3131, 368 Florida Statutes, to read: 369 402.3131 Large family child care homes. 370 (10) During the months of April and September of each 371 year, at a minimum, each large family child care home shall 372 provide parents of children attending the large family child care home information regarding the potential for a distracted 373 374 adult to fail to drop off a child at the large family child care 375 home and instead leave the child in the adult's vehicle upon

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arrival at the adult's destination. The large family child care home shall also give parents information about resources with suggestions to avoid this occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer or brochure with this information that shall be posted to the department's website, which large family child care homes may choose to reproduce and provide to parents to satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

Section 12. Paragraphs (1) and (m) of subsection (2) of section 409.175, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (m) and (n), respectively, a new paragraph (1) is added to that subsection, and paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of that section is amended, to read:

- 409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies; public records exemption.—
 - (2) As used in this section, the term:

- (1) "Severe disability" means a physical, developmental, or cognitive limitation affecting an individual's ability to safely submit fingerprints.
- (6)(a) An application for a license shall be made on forms provided, and in the manner prescribed, by the department. The department shall make a determination as to the good moral character of the applicant based upon screening. The department may grant an exemption from fingerprinting requirements, pursuant to s. 39.0138, for an adult household member who has a

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Section 13. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) and subsections (2) and (4) of section 409.991, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

409.991 Allocation of funds for community-based care lead agencies.—

- (1) As used in this section, the term:
- (e) "Proportion of children in care" means the proportion of the number of children in care receiving in-home services over the most recent 12-month period, the number of children whose families are receiving family support services over the most recent 12-month period, and the number of children who have entered into in out-of-home care with a case management overlay during the most recent 24-month 12-month period. This subcomponent shall be weighted as follows:
- 1. Fifteen percent shall be based on children whose families are receiving family support services.
- $\underline{\text{2.1.}}$ Fifty-five Sixty percent shall be based on children in out-of-home care.
- 3.2. Thirty Forty percent shall be based on children in in-home care.
- (2) The equity allocation of core services funds shall be calculated based on the following weights:
- (a) Proportion of the child population shall be weighted as 5 percent of the total \cdot .

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(b) Proportion of child abuse hotline workload shall be weighted as 35 15 percent of the total.; and

- (c) Proportion of children in care shall be weighted as $\underline{60}$ 80 percent of the total.
- (4) Unless otherwise specified in the General Appropriations Act, any new core services funds shall be allocated based on the equity allocation model as follows:
- (a) <u>Seventy</u> Twenty percent of new funding shall be allocated among all community-based care lead agencies.
- (b) Thirty Eighty percent of new funding shall be allocated among community-based care lead agencies that are funded below their equitable share. Funds allocated pursuant to this paragraph shall be weighted based on each community-based care lead agency's relative proportion of the total amount of funding below the equitable share.
- Section 14. Subsection (4) of section 435.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 435.07 Exemptions from disqualification.—Unless otherwise provided by law, the provisions of this section apply to exemptions from disqualification for disqualifying offenses revealed pursuant to background screenings required under this chapter, regardless of whether those disqualifying offenses are listed in this chapter or other laws.
- (4)(a) Disqualification from employment under this chapter may not be removed from, nor may an exemption be granted to, any

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personnel who is found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or who has entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, any felony covered by s. 435.03 or s. 435.04 solely by reason of any pardon, executive clemency, or restoration of civil rights.

- (b) Disqualification from employment under this chapter may not be removed from, nor may an exemption be granted to, any person who is a:
 - 1. Sexual predator as designated pursuant to s. 775.21;
 - 2. Career offender pursuant to s. 775.261; or

- 3. Sexual offender pursuant to s. 943.0435, unless the requirement to register as a sexual offender has been removed pursuant to s. 943.04354.
- (c) Disqualification from employment under this chapter may not be removed from, and an exemption may not be granted to, any current or prospective child care personnel, as defined in s. 402.302(3), and such a person is disqualified from employment as child care personnel, regardless of any previous exemptions from disqualification, if the person has been registered as a sex offender as described in 42 U.S.C. s. 9858f(c)(1)(C) or has been arrested for and is awaiting final disposition of, has been convicted or found guilty of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, or has been adjudicated delinquent and the record has not been sealed or expunged for, any offense prohibited under any of the following provisions of state law or a similar law of another

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- 1. A felony offense prohibited under any of the following statutes:
 - a. Chapter 741, relating to domestic violence.
 - b. Section 782.04, relating to murder.
 - c. Section 782.07, relating to manslaughter, aggravated manslaughter of an elderly person or disabled adult, aggravated manslaughter of a child, or aggravated manslaughter of an officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a paramedic.
 - d. Section 784.021, relating to aggravated assault.
 - e. Section 784.045, relating to aggravated battery.
 - f. Section 787.01, relating to kidnapping.
- g. Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a 490 child.
 - h. Section 787.04(2), relating to leading, taking, enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending custody proceedings.
 - i. Section 787.04(3), relating to leading, taking, enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending dependency proceedings or proceedings concerning alleged abuse or neglect of a minor.
 - j. Section 794.011, relating to sexual battery.

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k.	Former	s.	794.041,]	relatino	g to	sexual	acti	ivity	with	or
solicita	ation of	a	child by	a	person	in	familial	or	custo	odial	
authorit	Ey.										

- 1. Section 794.05, relating to unlawful sexual activity with certain minors.
 - m. Section 794.08, relating to female genital mutilation.
 - n. Section 806.01, relating to arson.

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- o. Section 826.04, relating to incest.
- p. Section 827.03, relating to child abuse, aggravated child abuse, or neglect of a child.
 - q. Section 827.04, relating to contributing to the delinquency or dependency of a child.
- r. Section 827.071, relating to sexual performance by a child.
 - s. Chapter 847, relating to child pornography.
- t. Chapter 893, relating to a drug abuse prevention and control offense, if that offense was committed in the preceding 518 5 years.
- 519 <u>u.t.</u> Section 985.701, relating to sexual misconduct in juvenile justice programs.
 - 2. A misdemeanor offense prohibited under any of the following statutes:
 - a. Section 784.03, relating to battery, if the victim of the offense was a minor.
 - b. Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a

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- c. Chapter 847, relating to child pornography.
- 3. A criminal act committed in another state or under federal law which, if committed in this state, constitutes an offense prohibited under any statute listed in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2.
 - Section 15. Paragraph (g) of subsection (3) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by private prekindergarten providers.—
 - (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program, a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the following requirements:
 - (g) The private prekindergarten provider must have a prekindergarten director who has a prekindergarten director credential that is approved by the office as meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s. 1002.57. Successful completion of a child care facility director credential under s. 402.305(2)(g) s. 402.305(2)(f) before the establishment of the prekindergarten director credential under s. 1002.57 or July 1, 2006, whichever occurs later, satisfies the requirement for a prekindergarten director credential under this paragraph.
 - Section 16. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 1002.57, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.-

- (3) The prekindergarten director credential must meet or exceed the requirements of the Department of Children and Families for the child care facility director credential under $\underline{s.\ 402.305(2)(g)}\ \underline{s.\ 402.305(2)(f)}$, and successful completion of the prekindergarten director credential satisfies these requirements for the child care facility director credential.
- (4) The department shall, to the maximum extent practicable, award credit to a person who successfully completes the child care facility director credential under \underline{s} . $\underline{402.305(2)(g)}$ \underline{s} . $\underline{402.305(2)(f)}$ for those requirements of the prekindergarten director credential which are duplicative of requirements for the child care facility director credential.
- Section 17. Subsection (1) of section 1002.59, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards training courses.—
- (1) The office shall adopt minimum standards for one or more training courses in emergent literacy for prekindergarten instructors. Each course must comprise 5 clock hours and provide instruction in strategies and techniques to address the age-appropriate progress of prekindergarten students in developing emergent literacy skills, including oral communication, knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and phonological awareness, and vocabulary and comprehension development. Each

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course must also provide resources containing strategies that allow students with disabilities and other special needs to derive maximum benefit from the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Successful completion of an emergent literacy training course approved under this section satisfies requirements for approved training in early literacy and language development under ss. 402.305(2)(e)5. 402.305(2)(d)5., 402.313(6), and 402.3131(5).

Section 18. The Division of Law Revision and Information is directed to prepare, with the assistance of the staffs of the appropriate substantive committees of the House of

Representatives and the Senate, a reviser's bill for the 2019

Regular Session of the Legislature to capitalize each word of the term "child protection team" wherever it occurs in Florida Statutes.

Section 19. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

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