

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to assistance programs; amending s.  
3 11.45, F.S.; requiring the Auditor General to perform  
4 audits of specified programs at specified intervals  
5 beginning in a specified calendar year; requiring the  
6 audits to review specified elements of such programs;  
7 requiring the Auditor General to make a specified  
8 determination, if possible; providing reporting  
9 requirements for the results of such audits; amending  
10 s. 1002.81, F.S.; deleting obsolete language; amending  
11 s. 1002.87, F.S.; requiring an early learning  
12 coalition to give priority for participation in a  
13 school readiness program to certain children;  
14 requiring the Office of Early Learning within the  
15 Department of Education to coordinate with the  
16 University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for  
17 Excellence in Early Childhood Studies to conduct an  
18 analysis of certain assistance programs; providing  
19 requirements for the analysis; requiring certain  
20 agencies to enter into a data sharing agreement with  
21 certain entities and annually provide certain data;  
22 requiring the University of Florida Anita Zucker  
23 Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies to  
24 provide an annual report to the Office of Early  
25 Learning; requiring the Office of Early Learning to

26 provide an annual report to the Governor and  
 27 Legislature; providing for the scheduled expiration of  
 28 certain provisions; providing an effective date.

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

32 Section 1. Paragraph (n) is added to subsection (2) of  
 33 section 11.45, Florida Statutes, to read:

34 11.45 Definitions; duties; authorities; reports; rules.—

35 (2) DUTIES.—The Auditor General shall:

36 (n) Beginning during the 2021 calendar year, and at least  
 37 every 3 years thereafter, conduct performance audits of the  
 38 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program established under 7  
 39 U.S.C. ss. 2011 et seq., the Temporary Cash Assistance Program  
 40 as provided under s. 414.095, the Medicaid program designated in  
 41 s. 409.963, the school readiness program set forth in part VI of  
 42 chapter 1002, and the Housing Choice Voucher Program established  
 43 under 42 U.S.C. s. 1437f. Such audits must include a review of  
 44 eligibility criteria; the manner by which each program  
 45 establishes and documents eligibility and disbursement policies;  
 46 the frequency of eligibility determinations; the clarity of both  
 47 written and verbal communication in which eligibility  
 48 requirements are conveyed to current and potential program  
 49 recipients; opportunities for improving service efficiency and  
 50 efficacy made possible by improved integration of state data

51 system platforms, processes, and procedures related to data  
52 collection, analysis, documentation, and interagency sharing;  
53 and the number and size of families receiving multiple program  
54 services compared to all eligible families, including whether  
55 they are single-parent or two-parent households. If possible,  
56 the Auditor General also shall determine the number of families  
57 receiving services who are claiming the Earned Income Tax  
58 Credit. The Auditor General shall provide the results of the  
59 audits in a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate,  
60 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chief Financial  
61 Officer, and the Legislative Auditing Committee within 30 days  
62 after completion of the audits, but no later than December 31,  
63 2021, and every 3 years thereafter.

64  
65 The Auditor General shall perform his or her duties  
66 independently but under the general policies established by the  
67 Legislative Auditing Committee. This subsection does not limit  
68 the Auditor General's discretionary authority to conduct other  
69 audits or engagements of governmental entities as authorized in  
70 subsection (3).

71 Section 2. Subsections (6) and (15) of section 1002.81,  
72 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

73 1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of  
74 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:  
75 ~~(6) "Earned income" means gross remuneration derived from~~

76 ~~work, professional service, or self-employment. The term~~  
77 ~~includes commissions, bonuses, back pay awards, and the cash~~  
78 ~~value of all remuneration paid in a medium other than cash.~~

79 ~~(15) "Unearned income" means income other than earned~~  
80 ~~income. The term includes, but is not limited to:~~

81 ~~(a) Documented alimony and child support received.~~

82 ~~(b) Social security benefits.~~

83 ~~(c) Supplemental security income benefits.~~

84 ~~(d) Workers' compensation benefits.~~

85 ~~(e) Reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation~~  
86 ~~benefits.~~

87 ~~(f) Veterans' benefits.~~

88 ~~(g) Retirement benefits.~~

89 ~~(h) Temporary cash assistance under chapter 414.~~

90 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
91 1002.87, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

92 1002.87 School readiness program; eligibility and  
93 enrollment.—

94 (1) Each early learning coalition shall give priority for  
95 participation in the school readiness program as follows:

96 (a) Priority shall be given first to a child younger than  
97 13 years of age from a family that includes a parent who is  
98 receiving temporary cash assistance under chapter 414 and  
99 subject to the federal work requirements or a parent who has an  
100 Intensive Service Account or an Individual Training Account

101 under s. 445.009.

102 Section 4. (1) The Office of Early Learning within the  
103 Department of Education shall coordinate with the University of  
104 Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood  
105 Studies to conduct an analysis of, at a minimum, recipients of  
106 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program established under  
107 7 U.S.C. ss. 2011 et seq., the temporary cash assistance program  
108 under s. 414.095, Florida Statutes, the Medicaid program under  
109 s. 409.963, Florida Statutes, the school readiness program under  
110 part VI of chapter 1002, Florida Statutes, and the Housing  
111 Choice Voucher Program established under 42 U.S.C. s. 1437f.

112 (2) The analysis must include a review of eligibility  
113 criteria, the manner in which each program establishes and  
114 documents eligibility and disbursement policies, the frequency  
115 of eligibility determinations, and the number of families  
116 receiving multiple program services out of the total number of  
117 eligible families.

118 (3) The University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for  
119 Excellence in Early Childhood Studies shall, through its  
120 analysis, develop participant profiles based on the number of  
121 families receiving multiple program services that include family  
122 composition and the most frequent program services or  
123 combination of services families are accessing in each county or  
124 geographic region.

125 (4) Each agency responsible for the administration of a

126 program that is required to be analyzed under subsection (1)  
127 shall enter into a data sharing agreement with the Office of  
128 Early Learning and the University of Florida Anita Zucker Center  
129 for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies by September 1, 2021.  
130 Upon execution of the data sharing agreement each agency shall  
131 submit a program services data file to the University of Florida  
132 Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies by  
133 November 1, 2021, containing program service data from the  
134 preceding 10 federal fiscal years, if available.

135 By November 1, 2022, and each year thereafter if applicable,  
136 each agency shall submit a supplemental data file to the  
137 University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in  
138 Early Childhood Studies containing program service data from the  
139 preceding federal fiscal year.

140 (5) The University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for  
141 Excellence in Early Childhood Studies shall provide a report to  
142 the Office of Early Learning based on the results of its  
143 analysis by June 30 of each year.

144 (6) The Office of Early Learning within 30 days after  
145 receiving the report shall submit it to the Governor, the  
146 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
147 Representatives.

148 (7) This section expires on June 30, 2023.

149 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.