

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to school readiness program; amending  
 3           s. 1002.81, F.S.; revising the definition of the term  
 4           "economically disadvantaged"; amending s. 1002.84,  
 5           F.S.; requiring early learning coalitions to adopt a  
 6           payment rate schedule rather than a payment schedule;  
 7           providing requirements for the payment rate schedule;  
 8           requiring early learning coalitions to reimburse  
 9           contracted school readiness program providers the  
 10          minimum payment rate; providing that minimum payment  
 11          rate reimbursements shall be charged as direct  
 12          services; amending s. 1002.85, F.S.; revising the  
 13          required contents of early learning coalition plans;  
 14          amending s. 1002.895, F.S.; conforming provisions to  
 15          changes made by the act; directing the Division of  
 16          Early Learning within the Department of Education to  
 17          amend its Child Care and Development Fund Plan to  
 18          identify certain personnel as essential workers for a  
 19          specified purpose; requiring the division to annually  
 20          collect certain data and include such data in a  
 21          specified annual report; providing for the future  
 22          repeal of such directive; providing an effective date.

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 24   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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26 Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 1002.81, Florida  
 27 Statutes, is amended to read:

28 1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of  
 29 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

30 (6) "Economically disadvantaged" means having a family  
 31 income that does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty  
 32 level or 70 percent of the state median income, whichever is  
 33 greater, and includes being a child of a working migratory  
 34 family as defined by 34 C.F.R. s. 200.81(d) or (f) or an  
 35 agricultural worker who is employed by more than one  
 36 agricultural employer during the course of a year, and whose  
 37 income varies according to weather conditions and market  
 38 stability.

39 Section 2. Subsection (17) of section 1002.84, Florida  
 40 Statutes, is amended to read:

41 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers  
 42 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

43 (17) Adopt a payment rate schedule that encompasses all  
 44 programs funded under this part and part V of this chapter. The  
 45 payment rate schedule shall identify a minimum payment rate for  
 46 each provider type and care level and must take into  
 47 consideration the prevailing market rate or an alternative model  
 48 that has been approved by the Administration for Children and  
 49 Families pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.45(c), ~~include the~~  
 50 ~~projected number of children to be served,~~ and be submitted for

51 approval by the department. Each early learning coalition shall  
52 reimburse the minimum payment rate to each contracted school  
53 readiness program provider, by provider type and care level,  
54 regardless of such provider's private pay rate. All minimum  
55 payment rate reimbursements shall be charged as direct services  
56 under s. 1002.89. Informal child care arrangements shall be  
57 reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted for a  
58 family day care home.

59 Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 1002.85, Florida  
60 Statutes, is amended to read:

61 1002.85 Early learning coalition plans.—

62 (5) The department shall collect and report data on  
63 coalition delivery of early learning programs. Elements shall  
64 include, but are not limited to, measures related to progress  
65 towards reducing the number of children on the waiting list, the  
66 percentage of children served by the program as compared to the  
67 number of administrative staff and overhead, the percentage of  
68 children served compared to total number of children under the  
69 age of 5 years below 150 percent of the federal poverty level or  
70 70 percent of the state median income, whichever is greater,  
71 provider payment processes, fraud intervention, child attendance  
72 and stability, use of child care resource and referral, and  
73 kindergarten readiness outcomes for children in the Voluntary  
74 Prekindergarten Education Program or the school readiness  
75 program upon entry into kindergarten. The department shall

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76 request input from the coalitions and school readiness program  
77 providers before finalizing the format and data to be used. The  
78 report shall be implemented beginning July 1, 2014, and results  
79 of the report must be included in the annual report under s.  
80 1002.82.

81 Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 1002.895, Florida  
82 Statutes, is amended to read:

83 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness  
84 program market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

85 (4) The market rate schedule shall be considered by an  
86 early learning coalition in the adoption of a payment rate  
87 schedule. The payment rate schedule must take into consideration  
88 the prevailing market rate and include the projected number of  
89 children to be served by each county and be submitted for  
90 approval by the department. Informal child care arrangements  
91 shall be reimbursed at not more than 50 percent of the rate  
92 adopted for a family day care home.

93 Section 5. (1) As the lead agency for the Child Care and  
94 Development Block Grant Trust Fund, pursuant to 45 C.F.R. parts  
95 98 and 99, the Division of Early Learning within the Department  
96 of Education shall amend its Child Care and Development Fund  
97 Plan to identify child care personnel as essential workers for  
98 the purpose of such personnel's children being determined  
99 eligible for the school readiness program.

100 (2) (a) The division shall annually collect the total

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101 number of child care personnel in the state whose children were  
102 determined eligible for the school readiness program,  
103 disaggregated by county; the total number of such children  
104 served by the school readiness program, disaggregated by age;  
105 the total cost to serve such children; and whether such children  
106 being determined eligible for the school readiness program led  
107 to the retention of such child care personnel.

108 (b) The information collected pursuant to paragraph (a)  
109 must be included in the department's annual report required  
110 under s. 1002.82(7), Florida Statutes.

111 (3) This section expires on September 30, 2024, unless  
112 reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the  
113 Legislature.

114 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.