

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the school readiness program;
 3 amending s. 1002.84, F.S.; requiring early learning
 4 coalitions to waive the school readiness program
 5 copayment for children under court-ordered protective
 6 supervision or in out-of-home care; amending s.
 7 1002.895, F.S.; requiring early learning coalitions to
 8 provide a reimbursement in a specified amount to
 9 school readiness providers for enrolled children under
 10 court-ordered protective supervision or in out-of-home
 11 care; providing an effective date.

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

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 15 Section 1. Subsection (9) of section 1002.84, Florida
 16 Statutes, is amended to read:

17 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers
 18 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

19 (9) Establish a parent sliding fee scale that provides for
 20 a parent copayment that is not a barrier to families receiving
 21 school readiness program services. A coalition may waive the
 22 copayment for an at-risk child or temporarily waive the
 23 copayment for a child whose family's income is at or below the
 24 federal poverty level or whose family experiences a natural
 25 disaster or an event that limits the parent's ability to pay,

HB 945

2022

26 such as incarceration, placement in residential treatment, or
27 becoming homeless, or an emergency situation such as a household
28 fire or burglary, or while the parent is participating in
29 parenting classes or participating in an Early Head Start
30 program or Head Start Program. A coalition shall waive the
31 copayment for a child who is under court-ordered protective
32 supervision or in out-of-home care as provided in s. 39.604. A
33 parent may not transfer school readiness program services to
34 another school readiness program provider until the parent has
35 submitted documentation from the current school readiness
36 program provider to the early learning coalition stating that
37 the parent has satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment
38 obligation.

39 Section 2. Subsection (4) of section 1002.895, Florida
40 Statutes, is amended to read:

41 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness
42 program market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

43 (4) The market rate schedule shall be considered by an
44 early learning coalition in the adoption of a payment schedule.
45 The payment schedule must take into consideration the prevailing
46 market rate and include the projected number of children to be
47 served by each county and be submitted for approval by the
48 department. Informal child care arrangements shall be reimbursed
49 at not more than 50 percent of the rate adopted for a family day
50 care home. An early learning coalition shall reimburse a

HB 945

2022

51 provider its full private pay rate for an enrolled child who is
52 under court-ordered protective supervision or in out-of-home
53 care as provided in s. 39.604.

54 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.