

By Senator Stewart

17-01882-23

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to child care services; amending s.  
3       1002.82, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education,  
4       subject to legislative appropriation, to establish a  
5       program to provide vouchers for child care services to  
6       parents who meet a specified income requirement;  
7       authorizing the State Board of Education to adopt  
8       rules; providing an effective date.  
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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12       Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section  
13       1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

14       1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

15       (2) The department shall:

16       (b) Preserve parental choice by:

17       1. Allowing ~~Permitting~~ parents to choose from a variety of  
18       child care categories, including center-based care, family child  
19       care, and informal child care to the extent authorized in the  
20       state's Child Care and Development Fund Plan as approved by the  
21       United States Department of Health and Human Services pursuant  
22       to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.18. Care and curriculum by a faith-based  
23       provider may not be limited or excluded in any of these  
24       categories.

25       2. Subject to the appropriation of funds by the  
26       Legislature, establishing a program through which a parent may  
27       obtain a voucher to subsidize all or a portion of the costs of  
28       child care services for a child older than 18 months of age but  
29       younger than 4 years of age. Only parents whose income is equal

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30 to or below 200 percent of the then-current federal poverty  
31 guidelines prescribed for the household size of the applicant by  
32 the United States Department of Health and Human Services may  
33 participate in the program. The State Board of Education may  
34 adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement  
35 this subparagraph.

36 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.