

**By** the Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services;  
the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and  
Senator Grall

603-02903-25

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to child welfare; creating s. 39.3011, F.S.; defining the term "Family Advocacy Program"; requiring the Department of Children and Families to enter into agreements with certain military installations for child protective investigations involving military families; providing requirements for such agreements; amending s. 39.401, F.S.; authorizing a law enforcement officer or an authorized agent of the department to take a child into custody who is the subject of a specified court order; amending s. 39.905, F.S.; authorizing the department to waive a specified requirement if there is an emergency need for a new domestic violence center, to issue a provisional certification to such center under certain circumstances, and to adopt rules relating to provisional certifications; amending s. 125.901, F.S.; revising membership requirements for certain independent special districts; authorizing the county governing board to select an interim appointment for a vacancy under certain circumstances; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; authorizing the department to grant certain exemptions from disqualification for certain persons; amending s. 409.145, F.S.; requiring the department to establish a methodology to determine daily room and board rates for certain children by a date certain, which may include different rates based on a child's acuity level or the geographic location of the residential child-caring agency; requiring the

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department to adopt rules; amending s. 409.175, F.S.;  
authorizing the department to grant certain exemptions  
from disqualification for certain persons; authorizing  
the department to extend the expiration date of a  
license by a specified amount of time for a certain  
purpose; amending s. 409.993, F.S.; specifying that  
subcontractors of lead agencies that are direct  
providers of foster care and related services are not  
liable for certain acts or omissions; providing that  
certain contract provisions are void and  
unenforceable; amending s. 553.73, F.S.; prohibiting  
the Florida Building Commission from mandating the  
installation of fire sprinklers or a fire suppression  
system in certain agencies licensed by the department;  
amending s. 633.208, F.S.; providing that certain  
residential child-caring agencies are not required to  
install fire sprinklers or a fire suppression system  
under certain circumstances; amending s. 937.0201,  
F.S.; revising the definition of the term "missing  
child"; amending s. 937.021, F.S.; specifying the  
entity with jurisdiction for accepting missing child  
reports under certain circumstances; amending ss.  
402.30501, 1002.57, and 1002.59, F.S.; conforming  
cross-references; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 39.3011, Florida Statutes, is created to  
read:

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59       39.3011 Protective investigations involving military  
60 families.—

61       (1) For purposes of this section, the term "Family Advocacy  
62 Program" means the program established by the United States  
63 Department of Defense to address child abuse, abandonment, and  
64 neglect in military families.

65       (2) The department shall enter into an agreement for child  
66 protective investigations involving military families with the  
67 Family Advocacy Program, or any successor program, of each  
68 United States military installation located in this state. Such  
69 agreement must include procedures for all of the following:

70       (a) Identifying the military personnel alleged to have  
71 committed the child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

72       (b) Notifying and sharing information with the military  
73 installation when a child protective investigation implicating  
74 military personnel has been initiated.

75       (c) Maintaining confidentiality as required under state and  
76 federal law.

77       Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 39.401, Florida  
78 Statutes, is amended to read:

79       39.401 Taking a child alleged to be dependent into custody;  
80 law enforcement officers and authorized agents of the  
81 department.—

82       (1) A child may only be taken into custody:

83       (a) Pursuant to the provisions of this part, based upon  
84 sworn testimony, either before or after a petition is filed; or

85       (b) By a law enforcement officer, or an authorized agent of  
86 the department, if the officer or authorized agent has probable  
87 cause to support a finding that the:

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88       1. ~~That the~~ Child has been abused, neglected, or abandoned,  
89 or is suffering from or is in imminent danger of illness or  
90 injury as a result of abuse, neglect, or abandonment;

91       2. Child is the subject of a court order to take the child  
92 into the custody of the department;

93       3.2. ~~That the~~ Parent or legal custodian of the child has  
94 materially violated a condition of placement imposed by the  
95 court; or

96       4.3. ~~That the~~ Child has no parent, legal custodian, or  
97 responsible adult relative immediately known and available to  
98 provide supervision and care.

99       Section 3. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section  
100 39.905, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101       39.905 Domestic violence centers.—

102       (1) Domestic violence centers certified under this part  
103 must:

104       (h) Demonstrate local need and ability to sustain  
105 operations through a history of 18 consecutive months' operation  
106 as a domestic violence center, including 12 months' operation of  
107 an emergency shelter as provided in paragraph (c), and a  
108 business plan which addresses future operations and funding of  
109 future operations. The department may waive this requirement if  
110 there is an emergency need for a new domestic violence center to  
111 provide services in an area and no other viable options exist to  
112 ensure continuity of services. If there is an emergency need,  
113 the department may issue a provisional certification to the  
114 domestic violence center as long as the center meets all other  
115 criteria in this subsection. The department may adopt rules to  
116 provide minimum standards for a provisional certificate,

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117 including increased monitoring and site visits and the time  
118 period that such certificate is valid.

119 Section 4. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of  
120 section 125.901, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

121 125.901 Children's services; independent special district;  
122 council; powers, duties, and functions; public records  
123 exemption.—

124 (1) Each county may by ordinance create an independent  
125 special district, as defined in ss. 189.012 and 200.001(8)(e),  
126 to provide funding for children's services throughout the county  
127 in accordance with this section. The boundaries of such district  
128 shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the county. The  
129 county governing body shall obtain approval at a general  
130 election, as defined in s. 97.021, by a majority vote of those  
131 electors voting on the question, to annually levy ad valorem  
132 taxes which shall not exceed the maximum millage rate authorized  
133 by this section. Any district created pursuant to the provisions  
134 of this subsection shall be required to levy and fix millage  
135 subject to the provisions of s. 200.065. Once such millage is  
136 approved by the electorate, the district shall not be required  
137 to seek approval of the electorate in future years to levy the  
138 previously approved millage. However, a referendum to increase  
139 the millage rate previously approved by the electors must be  
140 held at a general election, and the referendum may be held only  
141 once during the 48-month period preceding the effective date of  
142 the increased millage.

143 (a) The governing body of the district shall be a council  
144 on children's services, which may also be known as a juvenile  
145 welfare board or similar name as established in the ordinance by

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the county governing body. Such council shall consist of 10 members, including the superintendent of schools; a local school board member; a representative ~~the district administrator~~ from the appropriate district of the Department of Children and Families, or his or her designee who is a member of the Senior Management Service or of the Selected Exempt Service; one member of the county governing body; and the judge assigned to juvenile cases who shall sit as a voting member of the board, except that said judge shall not vote or participate in the setting of ad valorem taxes under this section. If there is more than one judge assigned to juvenile cases in a county, the chief judge shall designate one of said juvenile judges to serve on the board. The remaining five members shall be appointed by the Governor, and shall, to the extent possible, represent the demographic makeup ~~diversity~~ of the population of the county. After soliciting recommendations from the public, the county governing body shall submit to the Governor recommendations ~~the names of at least three persons~~ for each vacancy occurring among the five members appointed by the Governor, and the Governor may ~~shall~~ appoint members to the council from the candidates nominated by the county governing body. The Governor shall make a selection within a 45-day period, but if the Governor fails to make an appointment within the 45-day period, the county governing body may select an interim appointment for each vacancy from the recommendations submitted to the Governor or request a new list of candidates. All members recommended by the county governing body and appointed by the Governor must ~~shall~~ have been residents of the county for the previous 24-month period. Such members shall be appointed for 4-year terms, except

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175 that the length of the terms of the initial appointees shall be  
176 adjusted to stagger the terms. The Governor may remove a member  
177 for cause or upon the written petition of the county governing  
178 body. If any of the members of the council required to be  
179 appointed by the Governor under ~~the provisions of this~~  
180 subsection resigns, dies, or is ~~shall resign, die, or be~~ removed  
181 from office, the vacancy thereby created shall, as soon as  
182 practicable, be filled by appointment by the Governor, using the  
183 same method as the original appointment, and such appointment to  
184 fill a vacancy shall be for the unexpired term of the person who  
185 resigns, dies, or is removed from office.

186 (b) However, any county as defined in s. 125.011(1) may  
187 instead have a governing body consisting of 33 members,  
188 including the superintendent of schools, or his or her designee;  
189 two representatives of public postsecondary education  
190 institutions located in the county; the county manager or the  
191 equivalent county officer; the district administrator from the  
192 appropriate district of the Department of Children and Families,  
193 or the administrator's designee who is a member of the Senior  
194 Management Service or the Selected Exempt Service; the director  
195 of the county health department or the director's designee; the  
196 state attorney for the county or the state attorney's designee;  
197 the chief judge assigned to juvenile cases, or another juvenile  
198 judge who is the chief judge's designee and who shall sit as a  
199 voting member of the board, except that the judge may not vote  
200 or participate in setting ad valorem taxes under this section;  
201 an individual who is selected by the board of the local United  
202 Way or its equivalent; a member of a locally recognized faith-  
203 based coalition, selected by that coalition; a member of the

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204 local chamber of commerce, selected by that chamber or, if more  
205 than one chamber exists within the county, a person selected by  
206 a coalition of the local chambers; a member of the early  
207 learning coalition, selected by that coalition; a representative  
208 of a labor organization or union active in the county; a member  
209 of a local alliance or coalition engaged in cross-system  
210 planning for health and social service delivery in the county,  
211 selected by that alliance or coalition; a member of the local  
212 Parent-Teachers Association/Parent-Teacher-Student Association,  
213 selected by that association; a youth representative selected by  
214 the local school system's student government; a local school  
215 board member appointed by the chair of the school board; the  
216 mayor of the county or the mayor's designee; one member of the  
217 county governing body, appointed by the chair of that body; a  
218 member of the state Legislature who represents residents of the  
219 county, selected by the chair of the local legislative  
220 delegation; an elected official representing the residents of a  
221 municipality in the county, selected by the county municipal  
222 league; and 4 members-at-large, appointed to the council by the  
223 majority of sitting council members. The remaining seven members  
224 shall be appointed by the Governor in accordance with procedures  
225 set forth in paragraph (a), except that the Governor may remove  
226 a member for cause or upon the written petition of the council.  
227 Appointments by the Governor must, to the extent reasonably  
228 possible, represent the geographic and demographic makeup  
229 ~~diversity~~ of the population of the county. Members who are  
230 appointed to the council by reason of their position are not  
231 subject to the length of terms and limits on consecutive terms  
232 as provided in this section. The remaining appointed members of



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the governing body shall be appointed to serve 2-year terms, except that those members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed to serve 4-year terms, and the youth representative and the legislative delegate shall be appointed to serve 1-year terms. A member may be reappointed; however, a member may not serve for more than three consecutive terms. A member is eligible to be appointed again after a 2-year hiatus from the council.

Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 402.305, Florida Statutes, is amended 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 as defined 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.

~~(c) The department may grant exemptions from disqualification from working with children or the developmentally disabled as provided in s. 435.07.~~

~~(d)~~ Minimum age requirements. Such minimum standards shall prohibit a person under the age of 21 from being the operator of a child care facility and a person under the age of 16 from

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being employed at such facility unless such person is under direct supervision and is not counted for the purposes of computing the personnel-to-child ratio.

(d)~~(e)~~ Minimum training requirements for child care personnel.

1. Such minimum standards for training shall ensure that all child care personnel take an approved 40-clock-hour introductory course in child care, which course covers at least the following topic areas:

a. State and local rules and regulations which govern child care.

b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

d. Child development, including typical and atypical language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills development.

e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to determine the child's developmental age level.

f. Specialized areas, including computer technology for professional and classroom use and early literacy and language development of children from birth to 5 years of age, as determined by the department, for owner-operators and child care personnel of a child care facility.

g. Developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder and Down syndrome, and early identification, use of available state and local resources, classroom integration, and positive behavioral supports for children with developmental disabilities.

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291  
292 Within 90 days after employment, child care personnel shall  
293 begin training to meet the training requirements. Child care  
294 personnel shall successfully complete such training within 1  
295 year after the date on which the training began, as evidenced by  
296 passage of a competency examination. Successful completion of  
297 the 40-clock-hour introductory course shall articulate into  
298 community college credit in early childhood education, pursuant  
299 to ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25. Exemption from all or a portion of  
300 the required training shall be granted to child care personnel  
301 based upon educational credentials or passage of competency  
302 examinations. Child care personnel possessing a 2-year degree or  
303 higher that includes 6 college credit hours in early childhood  
304 development or child growth and development, or a child  
305 development associate credential or an equivalent state-approved  
306 child development associate credential, or a child development  
307 associate waiver certificate shall be automatically exempted  
308 from the training requirements in sub-subparagraphs b., d., and  
309 e.

310       2. The introductory course in child care shall stress, to  
311 the extent possible, an interdisciplinary approach to the study  
312 of children.

313       3. The introductory course shall cover recognition and  
314 prevention of shaken baby syndrome; prevention of sudden infant  
315 death syndrome; recognition and care of infants and toddlers  
316 with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum  
317 disorder and Down syndrome; and early childhood brain  
318 development within the topic areas identified in this paragraph.

319       4. On an annual basis in order to further their child care

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skills and, if appropriate, administrative skills, child care personnel who have fulfilled the requirements for the child care training shall be required to take an additional 1 continuing education unit of approved inservice training, or 10 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the department.

5. Child care personnel shall be required to complete 0.5 continuing education unit of approved training or 5 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the department, in early literacy and language development of children from birth to 5 years of age one time. The year that this training is completed, it shall fulfill the 0.5 continuing education unit or 5 clock hours of the annual training required in subparagraph 4.

6. Procedures for ensuring the training of qualified child care professionals to provide training of child care personnel, including onsite training, shall be included in the minimum standards. It is recommended that the state community child care coordination agencies (central agencies) be contracted by the department to coordinate such training when possible. Other district educational resources, such as community colleges and career programs, can be designated in such areas where central agencies may not exist or are determined not to have the capability to meet the coordination requirements set forth by the department.

7. Training requirements shall not apply to certain occasional or part-time support staff, including, but not limited to, swimming instructors, piano teachers, dance instructors, and gymnastics instructors.

8. The child care operator shall be required to take basic training in serving children with disabilities within 5 years

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after employment, either as a part of the introductory training or the annual 8 hours of inservice training.

~~(e)(f)~~ Periodic health examinations.

~~(f)(g)~~ A credential for child care facility directors. The credential shall be a required minimum standard for licensing.

The department may grant limited exemptions authorizing a person to work in a specified role or with a specified population.

Section 6. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (3) of section 409.145, Florida Statutes, to read:

409.145 Care of children; "reasonable and prudent parent" standard.—The child welfare system of the department shall operate as a coordinated community-based system of care which empowers all caregivers for children in foster care to provide quality parenting, including approving or disapproving a child's participation in activities based on the caregiver's assessment using the "reasonable and prudent parent" standard.

(3) ROOM AND BOARD RATES.—

(e) By July 1, 2026, the department shall, in coordination with its providers, establish a methodology to determine daily room and board rates for children in out-of-home care who are placed in a residential child-caring agency as defined in s. 409.175(2)(1). The methodology may produce different payment rates based on factors including, but not limited to, the acuity level of the child being placed and the geographic location of the residential child-caring agency. The department shall adopt rules to implement this paragraph.

Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5), subsection (7), and paragraph (e) of subsection (14) of section 409.175, Florida

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Statutes, are amended to read:

409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies; public records exemption.—

(5) The department shall adopt and amend rules for the levels of licensed care associated with the licensure of family foster homes, residential child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies. The rules may include criteria to approve waivers to licensing requirements when applying for a child-specific license.

(b) The requirements for licensure and operation of family foster homes, residential child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies shall include:

1. The operation, conduct, and maintenance of these homes and agencies and the responsibility which they assume for children served and the evidence of need for that service.

2. The provision of food, clothing, educational opportunities, services, equipment, and individual supplies to assure the healthy physical, emotional, and mental development of the children served.

3. The appropriateness, safety, cleanliness, and general adequacy of the premises, including fire prevention and health standards, to provide for the physical comfort, care, and well-being of the children served.

4. The ratio of staff to children required to provide adequate care and supervision of the children served and, in the case of family foster homes, the maximum number of children in the home.

5. The good moral character based upon screening,

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education, training, and experience requirements for personnel and family foster homes.

~~6. The department may grant exemptions from disqualification from working with children or the developmentally disabled as provided in s. 435.07.~~

~~7.~~ The provision of preservice and inservice training for all foster parents and agency staff.

~~7.8.~~ Satisfactory evidence of financial ability to provide care for the children in compliance with licensing requirements.

~~8.9.~~ The maintenance by the agency of records pertaining to admission, progress, health, and discharge of children served, including written case plans and reports to the department.

~~9.10.~~ The provision for parental involvement to encourage preservation and strengthening of a child's relationship with the family.

~~10.11.~~ The transportation safety of children served.

~~11.12.~~ The provisions for safeguarding the cultural, religious, and ethnic values of a child.

~~12.13.~~ Provisions to safeguard the legal rights of children served.

~~13.14.~~ Requiring signs to be conspicuously placed on the premises of facilities maintained by child-caring agencies to warn children of the dangers of human trafficking and to encourage the reporting of individuals observed attempting to engage in human trafficking activity. The signs must advise children to report concerns to the local law enforcement agency or the Department of Law Enforcement, specifying the appropriate telephone numbers used for such reports. The department shall specify, at a minimum, the content of the signs by rule.

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The department may grant limited exemptions authorizing a person to work in a specified role or with a specified population.

(7) The department may extend a license expiration date once for a period of up to 90 ~~30~~ days to allow for the implementation of corrective measures. However, the department may not extend a license expiration date more than once during a licensure period.

(14)

(e)1. In addition to any other preservice training required by law, foster parents, as a condition of licensure, and agency staff must successfully complete preservice training related to human trafficking which must be uniform statewide and must include, but need not be limited to, all of the following:

a. Basic information on human trafficking, such as an understanding of relevant terminology, and the differences between sex trafficking and labor trafficking.†

b. Factors and knowledge on identifying children at risk of human trafficking.† ~~and~~

c. Steps that should be taken to prevent at-risk youths from becoming victims of human trafficking.

2. Foster parents, before licensure renewal, and agency staff, during each full year of employment, must complete inservice training related to human trafficking to satisfy the training requirement under subparagraph (5)(b)6 ~~(5)(b)7~~.

Section 8. Present paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 409.993, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (c), a new paragraph (b) is added to that subsection, and paragraph (a) of that subsection is amended, to read:



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465 409.993 Lead agencies and subcontractor liability.—

466 (3) SUBCONTRACTOR LIABILITY.—

467 (a) A subcontractor of an eligible community-based care  
468 lead agency that is a direct provider of foster care and related  
469 services to children and families, and its employees or  
470 officers, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) ~~(b)~~,  
471 must, as a part of its contract, obtain a minimum of \$1 million  
472 per occurrence with a policy period aggregate limit of \$3  
473 million in general liability insurance coverage. The  
474 subcontractor of a lead agency must also require that staff who  
475 transport client children and families in their personal  
476 automobiles in order to carry out their job responsibilities  
477 obtain minimum bodily injury liability insurance in the amount  
478 of \$100,000 per person in any one automobile accident, and  
479 subject to such limits for each person, \$300,000 for all damages  
480 resulting from any one automobile accident, on their personal  
481 automobiles. In lieu of personal motor vehicle insurance, the  
482 subcontractor's casualty, liability, or motor vehicle insurance  
483 carrier may provide nonowned automobile liability coverage. This  
484 insurance provides liability insurance for automobiles that the  
485 subcontractor uses in connection with the subcontractor's  
486 business but does not own, lease, rent, or borrow. This coverage  
487 includes automobiles owned by the employees of the subcontractor  
488 or a member of the employee's household but only while the  
489 automobiles are used in connection with the subcontractor's  
490 business. The nonowned automobile coverage for the subcontractor  
491 applies as excess coverage over any other collectible insurance.  
492 The personal automobile policy for the employee of the  
493 subcontractor shall be primary insurance, and the nonowned

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494 automobile coverage of the subcontractor acts as excess  
495 insurance to the primary insurance. The subcontractor shall  
496 provide a minimum limit of \$1 million in nonowned automobile  
497 coverage. In a tort action brought against such subcontractor or  
498 employee, net economic damages shall be limited to \$2 million  
499 per liability claim and \$200,000 per automobile claim,  
500 including, but not limited to, past and future medical expenses,  
501 wage loss, and loss of earning capacity, offset by any  
502 collateral source payment paid or payable. In a tort action  
503 brought against such subcontractor, noneconomic damages shall be  
504 limited to \$400,000 per claim. A claims bill may be brought on  
505 behalf of a claimant pursuant to s. 768.28 for any amount  
506 exceeding the limits specified in this paragraph. Any offset of  
507 collateral source payments made as of the date of the settlement  
508 or judgment shall be in accordance with s. 768.76.

509 (b) A subcontractor of a lead agency that is a direct  
510 provider of foster care and related services is not liable for  
511 the acts or omissions of the lead agency; the department; or the  
512 officers, agents, or employees of the lead agency or the  
513 department. Any provision in a contract between a subcontractor  
514 and a lead agency which is in conflict with this paragraph is  
515 void and unenforceable.

516 Section 9. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (20) of  
517 section 553.73, Florida Statutes, to read:

518 553.73 Florida Building Code.—

519 (20) The Florida Building Commission may not:

520 (c) Mandate the installation of fire sprinklers or a fire  
521 suppression system in a residential child-caring agency licensed  
522 by the Department of Children and Families under s. 409.175

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523 which operates in a single-family residential property that is  
524 licensed for a capacity of five or fewer children who are  
525 unrelated to the licensee.

526 Section 10. Subsection (12) is added to section 633.208,  
527 Florida Statutes, to read:

528 633.208 Minimum firesafety standards.—

529 (12) Notwithstanding subsection (8), a residential child-  
530 caring agency licensed by the Department of Children and  
531 Families under s. 409.175 which operates in a single-family  
532 residential property that is licensed for a capacity of five or  
533 fewer children who are unrelated to the licensee is not required  
534 to install fire sprinklers or a fire suppression system as long  
535 as the licensee meets the requirements for portable fire  
536 extinguishers, fire alarms, and smoke detectors under this  
537 chapter.

538 Section 11. Subsection (3) of section 937.0201, Florida  
539 Statutes, is amended to read:

540 937.0201 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

541 (3) "Missing child" means a person younger than 18 years of  
542 age whose temporary or permanent residence is in, or is believed  
543 to be in, this state, whose location has not been determined,  
544 and who has been reported as missing to a law enforcement  
545 agency. The term includes a child who is the subject of a court  
546 order to take the child into the custody of the Department of  
547 Children and Families.

548 Section 12. Subsection (3) of section 937.021, Florida  
549 Statutes, is amended to read:

550 937.021 Missing child and missing adult reports.—

551 (3) A report that a child or adult is missing must be

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accepted by and filed with the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the county or municipality in which the child or adult was last seen. The filing and acceptance of the report imposes the duties specified in this section upon the law enforcement agency receiving the report. This subsection does not preclude a law enforcement agency from accepting a missing child or missing adult report when agency jurisdiction cannot be determined. If agency jurisdiction cannot be determined for cases in which there is a child who is the subject of a court order to take the child into the custody of the Department of Children and Families, the sheriff's office of the county in which the court order was entered must take jurisdiction.

Section 13. 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 s. 402.305(2)(d) ~~s. 402.305(2)(e)~~.

Section 14. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 1002.57, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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 s. 402.305(2)(f) ~~s. 402.305(2)(g)~~, and successful completion of

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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 s.

402.305(2)(f) ~~s. 402.305(2)(g)~~ for those requirements of the prekindergarten director credential which are duplicative of requirements for the child care facility director credential.

Section 15. Subsection (1) of section 1002.59, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards training courses.—

(1) The department, in collaboration with the Just Read, Florida! Office, shall adopt minimum standards for courses in emergent literacy for prekindergarten instructors. Each course must consist of 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, phonological and phonemic awareness, vocabulary and comprehension development, and foundational background knowledge designed to correlate with the content that students will encounter in grades K-12, consistent with the evidence-based content and strategies grounded in the science of reading identified pursuant to s. 1001.215(7). The course standards must be reviewed as part of any review of subject coverage or endorsement requirements in the elementary, reading, and exceptional student educational areas conducted pursuant to s. 1012.586. Each course must also provide resources containing

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610 strategies that allow students with disabilities and other  
611 special needs to derive maximum benefit from the Voluntary  
612 Prekindergarten Education Program. Successful completion of an  
613 emergent literacy training course approved under this section  
614 satisfies requirements for approved training in early literacy  
615 and language development under ss. 402.305(2)(d)5. ~~ss.~~  
616 ~~402.305(2)(e)5.,~~ 402.313(6), and 402.3131(5).

617 Section 16. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.