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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/03/2026	.	
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The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs  
(Calatayud) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 402.306, Florida  
Statutes, is amended to read:

402.306 Designation of licensing agency; dissemination by  
the department and local licensing agency of information on  
child care.—

(3) The department and local licensing agencies, or the



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designees thereof, shall be responsible for coordination and dissemination of information on child care to the community and shall make available through electronic means all licensing standards and procedures, health and safety standards for school readiness providers, monitoring and inspection reports, and the names and addresses of ~~licensed~~ child care facilities, school readiness program providers, and, where applicable pursuant to s. 402.313, licensed or registered family child ~~day~~ care homes. This information shall also include the number of deaths, serious injuries, and instances of substantiated child abuse that have occurred in child care settings, including those which are exempt pursuant to s. 402.316(1) or (2), each year; research and best practices in child development; and resources regarding social-emotional development, parent and family engagement, healthy eating, and physical activity.

Section 2. Section 402.313, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.313 Family child ~~day~~ care homes.—

(1) Family child ~~day~~ care homes shall be licensed under this act if they are presently being licensed under an existing county licensing ordinance or if the board of county commissioners passes a resolution that family child ~~day~~ care homes be licensed.

(a) If not subject to license, family child ~~day~~ care homes shall register annually with the department, providing the following information:

1. The name and address of the home.
2. The name of the operator.
3. The number of children served.



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40           4. Proof of a written plan to provide at least one other  
41 competent adult to be available to substitute for the operator  
42 in an emergency. This plan shall include the name, address, and  
43 telephone number of the designated substitute.

44           5. Proof of screening and background checks.

45           6. Proof of successful completion of the 30-hour training  
46 course, as evidenced by passage of a competency examination,  
47 which shall include:

48           a. State and local rules and regulations that govern child  
49 care.

50           b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

51           c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

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

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

58           f. Specialized areas, including early literacy and language  
59 development of children from birth to 5 years of age, as  
60 determined by the department, for owner-operators of family  
61 child day care homes.

62           7. Proof that immunization records are kept current.

63           8. Proof of completion of the required continuing education  
64 units or clock hours.

65           (b) A family child day care home may volunteer to be  
66 licensed under this act.

67           (c) The department may provide technical assistance to  
68 counties and family child day care home providers to enable



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counties and family child ~~day~~ care providers to achieve compliance with family child ~~day~~ care homes standards.

(2) This information shall be included in a directory to be published annually by the department to inform the public of available child care facilities.

(3) Child care personnel in family child ~~day~~ care homes shall be subject to the applicable screening provisions contained in ss. 402.305(2) and 402.3055. For purposes of screening in family child ~~day~~ care homes, the term includes any member over the age of 12 years of a family child ~~day~~ care home operator's family, or persons over the age of 12 years residing with the operator in the family child ~~day~~ care home. Members of the operator's family, or persons residing with the operator, who are between the ages of 12 years and 18 years shall not be required to be fingerprinted, but shall be screened for delinquency records.

(4) Operators of family child ~~day~~ care homes must successfully complete an approved 30-clock-hour introductory course in child care, as evidenced by passage of a competency examination, before caring for children.

(5) In order to further develop their child care skills and, if appropriate, their administrative skills, operators of family child ~~day~~ care homes shall be required to complete an additional 1 continuing education unit of approved training or 10 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the department, annually.

(6) Operators of family child ~~day~~ care homes shall be required to complete 0.5 continuing education unit of approved training in early literacy and language development of children



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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 subsection (5).

(7) Operators of family child ~~day~~ care homes shall be required annually to complete a health and safety home inspection self-evaluation checklist developed by the department in conjunction with the statewide resource and referral program. The completed checklist shall be signed by the operator of the family child ~~day~~ care home and provided to parents as certification that basic health and safety standards are being met.

(8) Family child ~~day~~ care home operators may avail themselves of supportive services offered by the department.

(9) The department shall prepare a brochure on family child ~~day~~ care for distribution by the department and by local licensing agencies, if appropriate, to family child ~~day~~ care homes for distribution to parents utilizing such child care, and to all interested persons, including physicians and other health professionals; mental health professionals; school teachers or other school personnel; social workers or other professional child care, foster care, residential, or institutional workers; and law enforcement officers. The brochure shall, at a minimum, contain the following information:

(a) A brief description of the requirements for family child ~~day~~ care registration, training, and fingerprinting and screening.

(b) A listing of those counties that require licensure of family child ~~day~~ care homes. Such counties shall provide an



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addendum to the brochure that provides a brief description of the licensure requirements or may provide a brochure in lieu of the one described in this subsection, provided it contains all the required information on licensure and the required information in the subsequent paragraphs.

(c) A statement indicating that information about the family child day care home's compliance with applicable state or local requirements can be obtained by telephoning the department office or the office of the local licensing agency, if appropriate, at a telephone number or numbers which shall be affixed to the brochure.

(d) The statewide toll-free telephone number of the central abuse hotline, together with a notice that reports of suspected and actual child physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect are received and referred for investigation by the hotline.

(e) Any other information relating to competent child care that the department or local licensing agency, if preparing a separate brochure, deems would be helpful to parents and other caretakers in their selection of a family child day care home.

(10) On an annual basis, the department shall evaluate the registration and licensure system for family child day care homes. Such evaluation shall, at a minimum, address the following:

(a) The number of family child day care homes registered and licensed and the dates of such registration and licensure.

(b) The number of children being served in both registered and licensed family child day care homes and any available slots in such homes.

(c) The number of complaints received concerning family



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156 child day care, the nature of the complaints, and the resolution  
157 of such complaints.

158 (d) The training activities utilized by child care  
159 personnel in family child day care homes for meeting the state  
160 or local training requirements.

161  
162 The evaluation shall be utilized by the department in any  
163 administrative modifications or adjustments to be made in the  
164 registration of family child day care homes or in any  
165 legislative requests for modifications to the system of  
166 registration or to other requirements for family child day care  
167 homes.

168 (11) In order to inform the public of the state requirement  
169 for registration of family child day care homes as well as the  
170 other requirements for such homes to legally operate in the  
171 state, the department shall institute a media campaign to  
172 accomplish this end. Such a campaign shall include, at a  
173 minimum, flyers, newspaper advertisements, radio advertisements,  
174 and television advertisements.

175 (12) Notwithstanding any other state or local law or  
176 ordinance, any family child day care home licensed pursuant to  
177 this chapter or pursuant to a county ordinance shall be charged  
178 the utility rates accorded to a residential home. A licensed  
179 family child day care home may not be charged commercial utility  
180 rates.

181 (13) The department shall, by rule, establish minimum  
182 standards for family child day care homes that are required to  
183 be licensed by county licensing ordinance or county licensing  
184 resolution or that voluntarily choose to be licensed. The



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standards should include requirements for staffing, training, maintenance of immunization records, minimum health and safety standards, reduced standards for the regulation of child care during evening hours by municipalities and counties, and enforcement of standards.

~~(14) During the months of August and September of each year, each family day care home shall provide parents of children enrolled in the home detailed information regarding the causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus in an effort to educate those parents regarding the importance of immunizing their children against influenza as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.~~

~~(15) During the months of April and September of each year, at a minimum, each family day care home shall provide parents of children attending the family day care home information regarding the potential for a distracted adult to fail to drop off a child at the family day care home and instead leave the child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at the adult's destination. The family day care home shall also give parents information about resources with suggestions to avoid this occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer or brochure with this information that shall be posted to the department's website, which family day care homes may choose to reproduce and provide to parents to satisfy the requirements of this subsection.~~

Section 3. Subsections (9) and (10) of section 402.3131, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

402.3131 Large family child care homes.—





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~~(9) During the months of August and September of each year, each large family child care home shall provide parents of children enrolled in the home detailed information regarding the causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus in an effort to educate those parents regarding the importance of immunizing their children against influenza as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.~~

~~(10) During the months of April and September of each year, at a minimum, each large family child care home shall provide parents of children attending the large family child care home information regarding the potential for a distracted adult to fail to drop off a child at the large family child care home and instead leave the child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at the adult's destination. The large family child care home shall also give parents information about resources with suggestions to avoid this occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer or brochure with this information that shall be posted to the department's website, which large family child care homes may choose to reproduce and provide to parents to satisfy the requirements of this subsection.~~

Section 4. Section 402.316, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.316 Exemptions.—

(1) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319, except for the requirements regarding screening of child care personnel pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055, do not apply to a child care facility which is an integral part of church or parochial schools, ~~or a child care facility that solely provides child~~



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~~care to eligible children as defined in s. 402.261(1)(c),~~  
conducting regularly scheduled classes, courses of study, or  
educational programs accredited by, or by a member of, an  
organization that ~~which~~ publishes and requires compliance with  
its standards for health, safety, and sanitation. ~~However,~~ Such  
facilities must ~~shall~~ meet minimum requirements of the  
applicable local governing body as to health, sanitation, and  
safety ~~and shall meet the screening requirements pursuant to ss.~~  
~~402.305 and 402.3055.~~ Failure by a facility to comply with ~~such~~  
screening requirements pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055  
shall result in the loss of the facility's exemption from  
licensure.

(2) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319, except for the  
requirements regarding screening of child care personnel  
pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055, do not apply to a child  
care facility that solely provides child care to eligible  
children as defined in s. 402.261(1)(c). Such facilities must  
meet minimum requirements of the applicable local governing body  
as to health, sanitation, and safety. Failure by a facility to  
comply with screening requirements pursuant to ss. 402.305 and  
402.3055 shall result in the loss of the facility's exemption  
from licensure.

(3) ~~(2)~~ The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319 do not apply  
to a child care facility or family child day ~~day~~ care home if the  
child care facility or family child day ~~day~~ care home has a  
certificate issued by the United States Department of Defense or  
by the United States Coast Guard to provide child care and has  
completed background screening by the United States Department  
of Defense pursuant to 34 U.S.C. s. 20351 and 32 C.F.R. part 86



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and received a favorable suitability and fitness determination.  
If the child care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home elects  
to serve children ineligible for care under the United States  
Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02, the child care  
facility or family child ~~day~~ care home must be licensed under  
this chapter.

(4) ~~(3)~~ Any child care facility covered by the exemption  
under subsection (1) or subsection (2) which desires to be  
licensed may submit an application to the department or local  
licensing agency pursuant to s. 402.308(4).

(5) ~~(4)~~ The department and the local licensing agency  
pursuant to s. 402.308(4) shall adopt rules to administer and  
implement this section, including, but not limited to, any  
assessments of previous licensure history.

(6) A child care facility exempt under subsection (1) or  
subsection (2) must include, at a minimum, the following  
statement on its website, in its promotional materials, and on  
its facility-created documents and forms provided to families  
served by the child care facility: "(Child care facility name)  
is a child care facility operating under an exemption pursuant  
to the laws of the State of Florida and is not subject to  
licensure or regulation by the Department of Children and  
Families."

Section 5. Section 627.70161, Florida Statutes, is amended  
to read:

627.70161 Family child ~~day~~ care and large family child care  
insurance.—

(1) PURPOSE AND INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that  
family child ~~day~~ care and large family child care homes fulfill



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a vital role in providing child care in Florida. It is the intent of the Legislature that residential property insurance coverage should not be canceled, denied, or nonrenewed solely on the basis of the child ~~family day~~ care services at the residence. The Legislature also recognizes that the potential liability of residential property insurers is substantially increased by the rendition of child care services on the premises. The Legislature therefore finds that there is a public need to specify that contractual liabilities that arise in connection with the operation of the family child ~~day~~ care home or the large family child care home are excluded from residential property insurance policies unless they are specifically included in such coverage.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Child care" means the care, protection, and supervision of a child, for a period of less than 24 hours a day on a regular basis, which supplements parental care, enrichment, and health supervision for the child, in accordance with his or her individual needs, and for which a payment, fee, or grant is made for care.

(b) "Family child ~~day~~ care home" means an occupied residence in which child care is regularly provided for children from at least two unrelated families and which receives a payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or not operated for a profit.

(c) "Large family child care home" means an occupied residence in which child care is regularly provided for children from at least two unrelated families; which receives a payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or



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not operated for profit; and which has at least two full-time child care personnel on the premises during the hours of operation. One of the two full-time child care personnel must be the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child care home must first have operated as a licensed family child care home for at least 2 years, with an operator who has held a child development associate credential or its equivalent for at least 1 year, before seeking licensure as a large family child care home. Household children under 13 years of age, when on the premises of the large family child care home or on a field trip with children enrolled in child care, must be included in the overall capacity of the licensed home. A large family child care home may provide care for one of the following groups of children, which must include household children under 13 years of age:

1. A maximum of 8 children from birth to 24 months of age.

2. A maximum of 12 children, with no more than 4 children under 24 months of age.

(3) FAMILY CHILD DAY CARE AND LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES; COVERAGE.—A residential property insurance policy may ~~shall~~ not provide coverage for liability for claims arising out of, or in connection with, the operation of a family child day care home or a large family child care home, and the insurer shall be under no obligation to defend against lawsuits covering such claims, unless:

(a) Specifically covered in a policy; or

(b) Covered by a rider or endorsement for business coverage attached to a policy.

(4) DENIAL, CANCELLATION, REFUSAL TO RENEW PROHIBITED.—An



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insurer may not deny, cancel, or refuse to renew a policy for residential property insurance solely on the basis that the policyholder or applicant operates a family child ~~day~~ care home or a large family child care home. In addition to other lawful reasons for refusing to insure, an insurer may deny, cancel, or refuse to renew a policy of a family child ~~day~~ care home or a large family child care home provider if one or more of the following conditions occur:

(a) The policyholder or applicant provides care for more children than authorized ~~for family day care homes~~ by s. 402.302;

(b) The policyholder or applicant fails to maintain a separate commercial liability policy or an endorsement providing liability coverage for the family child ~~day~~ care home or the large family child care home operations;

(c) The policyholder or applicant fails to comply with the applicable ~~family day care home~~ licensure and registration requirements specified in chapter 402 ~~s. 402.313~~; or

(d) Discovery of willful or grossly negligent acts or omissions or any violations of state laws or regulations establishing safety standards for family child ~~day~~ care homes or large family child care homes by the named insured or his or her representative which materially increase any of the risks insured.

Section 6. Section 1001.24, Florida Statutes, is reenacted and amended to read:

1001.24 Direct-support organization; use of property; board of directors; audit.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section, the



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term:

(a) "Department of Education direct-support organization" means an organization:

1. That is a corporation not for profit that is incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved by the Department of State.

2. That is organized and operated exclusively to receive, hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures to or for the benefit of the state's early learning programs for children from birth to 5 years of age and public prekindergarten through 12th grade education in this state.

3. That the State Board of Education, after review, has certified to be operating in a manner consistent with the goals and best interest of the Department of Education.

(b) "Personal services" includes full-time or part-time personnel, as well as payroll processing.

(2) USE OF PROPERTY.—The State Board of Education:

(a) May permit the use of property, facilities, and personal services of the department by the direct-support organization, subject to the provisions of this section.

(b) Shall prescribe by rule conditions with which the direct-support organization must comply in order to use property, facilities, or personal services of the department. Such rules shall provide for budget and audit review and for oversight by the department.

(c) Shall not permit the use of property, facilities, or personal services of the direct-support organization if such organization does not provide equal employment opportunities to all persons, regardless of race, color, national origin, gender,



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age, or religion.

(3) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The board of directors of the department direct-support organization shall be appointed by the commissioner and shall include representation from business, industry, and other components of Florida's economy.

(4) ANNUAL AUDIT.—Each direct-support organization shall provide for an annual financial audit in accordance with s. 215.981. The identity of donors who desire to remain anonymous shall be protected, and that anonymity shall be maintained in the auditor's report. All records of the organization other than the auditor's report, management letter, and any supplemental data requested by the Auditor General and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall be confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

Section 7. Section 1002.80, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1002.80 Florida Endowment for Early Learning.—

(1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Florida Endowment for Early Learning Act."

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Board" means the board of directors of the Department of Education direct-support organization under s. 1001.24.

(b) "Endowment fund" means an account established within the Department of Education direct-support organization for the Division of Early Learning within the department to provide a continuing and growing source of revenue for the state's early learning efforts.

(c) "Foundation" means the Department of Education direct-support organization under s. 1001.24.





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(d) "Operating account" means an account established under paragraph (4)(c) to carry out the purposes provided in subsection (6).

(3) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that access to high-quality early learning experiences prepares children for a lifetime of success by fostering foundational skills in academics, developing executive functioning skills, and supporting cognitive function. This includes better preparation for kindergarten, stronger cognitive and problem-solving abilities, and improved approaches to learning, which all contribute to greater long-term educational attainment and career success. However, there is a critical need for significant additional funding to achieve this goal.

Accordingly, the Legislature further finds and declares that:

(a) With continued support, this state's youngest residents can have access to high-quality early learning opportunities that reduce the need for significant long-term educational interventions and provide the foundational experiences needed for a child to have success in school and in life.

(b) The purpose of this section is to broaden the participation and funding potential for further significant support for access to early-learning opportunities for this state's youngest learners.

(c) It is appropriate to encourage individual and corporate support and involvement, as well as state support and involvement, to promote access to early learning programs for this state's youngest residents.

(4) REVENUE FOR THE ENDOWMENT FUND.—

(a) The Florida Endowment for Early Learning is established



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within the Department of Education direct-support organization under s. 1001.24 to create a long-term, stable, and growing source of revenue to be administered, in accordance with rules adopted by the department.

(b) The principal of the endowment fund shall derive from any legislative appropriations that may be made to the endowment, and such bequests, gifts, grants, and donations as may be solicited for such purpose by the foundation from public or private sources.

(c) The board of directors of the foundation shall establish the operating account and shall deposit therein the moneys transmitted. Moneys in the operating account shall be available to carry out the purposes of subsection (6).

(d) Funds received from state sources shall be accounted for separately from bequests, gifts, grants, and donations, which may be solicited for such purposes by the foundation from public or private sources. Earnings on funds received from state sources and funds received from public or private sources shall be accounted for separately.

(5) ORGANIZATION, POWERS, AND DUTIES.—Within the limits prescribed in this section or by rule of the department:

(a) The board may solicit and receive bequests, gifts, grants, donations, goods, and services. Where gifts are restricted as to purpose, they may be used only for the purpose or purposes stated by the donor. The board may transmit monetary gifts to the State Board of Administration for deposit in the endowment fund principal.

(b) The board may enter into contracts with the Federal Government, state or local agencies, early learning coalitions,



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private entities, or individuals to carry out the purposes of this section.

(c) The board may identify, initiate, and fund new and creative programs to carry out the purposes of this section, utilizing existing organizations, early learning coalitions, associations, and agencies to carry out such early learning programs and purposes wherever possible.

(d) The board may make gifts or grants to all of the following:

1. The state or any political subdivision thereof, or any public agency of state or local government.

2. An early learning coalition for administration of direct services to children identified by the board.

3. The division for purposes of program recognition and marketing, public relations, and education.

(e) The board may advertise and solicit applications for funding and shall evaluate applications and program proposals submitted thereto. Funding shall be awarded only where the evaluation is positive and the proposal meets both the guidelines for use established in subsection (6) and such evaluation criteria as the department may prescribe by rule.

(f) The board shall monitor, review, and annually evaluate funded programs to determine whether funding should be continued, terminated, reduced, or increased.

(g) The board shall establish an operating account as provided in paragraph (4) (c).

(h) The board may take additional actions, including the hiring of necessary staff, as are deemed necessary and appropriate to administer this section, subject to rules of the



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department.

(6) DISTRIBUTION OF MONEYS.—The board shall use the moneys in the operating account to provide for:

(a) Direct services to children in accordance with an allocation methodology proposed by the Division of Early Learning to an early learning coalition approved by the board.

1. A child receiving direct services from an early learning coalition shall choose from providers under a contract with an early learning coalition pursuant to s. 1002.88.

2. Unless otherwise specified by the donor, the early learning coalition shall apply a parent copay based on family income pursuant to s. 1002.84(9) or s. 1002.935(2)(b).

3. The early learning coalition shall reimburse a provider serving a child using direct service funds from the early learning endowment at the same reimbursement rate allowed pursuant to s. 1002.84(17)(a).

4. Each early learning coalition providing direct services must comply with the same administrative requirements under part VI of chapter 1002.

(b) Programs designed to support early learning as identified by donors, gifts, or grants.

Any allocation of funds made for programs pursuant to paragraph (b) or for advertising or consulting is subject to a competitive solicitation process. State funds may not be used to fund events for private sector donors or potential donors or to honor supporters.

(7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Division of Early Learning shall include information in its report of activities pursuant to s.



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1002.82(7) summarizing the performance of the endowment fund for the previous fiscal year, summarizing the foundation's fundraising activities and performance, and detailing the activities and programs supported by the endowment principal or earnings on the endowment principal and the activities and programs supported by private sources, bequests, gifts, grants, donations, and other valued goods and services received. The report must also include all of the following:

(a) Financial data, by service type, including expenditures for administration and the provision of services by each early learning coalition.

(b) The amount of funds spent on administrative expenses and fundraising and the amount of funds raised from private sources.

(c) Outcome data, including the number of children served and any child outcomes.

(8) RULES.—The department shall adopt rules to implement this section.

Section 8. Present subsection (2) of section 1002.95, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (3), and a new subsection (2) is added to that section, to read:

1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) Scholarship Program.—

(2) Subject to an appropriation, the TEACH Scholarship Program administrator shall also establish and administer the Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition to ensure alignment of training statewide, including, but not limited to, a system of training approval, a system of trainer approval, and implementation of competency-based assessments aligned to the



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early learning professional development standards and career pathways under s. 1002.995.

Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of child abuse or neglect; exception.—

(2) Except as provided in subsection (4), access to such records, excluding the name of, or other identifying information with respect to, the reporter which may only be released as provided in subsection (5), may only be granted to the following persons, officials, and agencies:

(a) Employees, authorized agents, or contract providers of the department, the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Department of Education, or county agencies responsible for carrying out:

1. Child or adult protective investigations;
2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;
3. Early intervention and prevention services;
4. Healthy Start services;
5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes, child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapters 393 and 394, family child ~~day~~ care homes, providers who receive school readiness funding under part VI of chapter 1002, or other homes used to provide for the care and welfare of children;
6. Employment screening for caregivers in residential group homes and facilities licensed under chapters 393, 394, and 409;
- or
7. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided



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by certified domestic violence centers working at the  
department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.

Also, employees or agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice  
responsible for the provision of services to children, pursuant  
to chapters 984 and 985.

Section 10. Section 125.0109, Florida Statutes, is amended  
to read:

125.0109 Family child ~~day~~ care homes; local zoning  
regulation.—The operation of a residence as a family child ~~day~~  
care home, as defined by law, registered or licensed with the  
Department of Children and Families shall constitute a valid  
residential use for purposes of any local zoning regulations,  
and no such regulation shall require the owner or operator of  
such family child ~~day~~ care home to obtain any special exemption  
or use permit or waiver, or to pay any special fee in excess of  
\$50, to operate in an area zoned for residential use.

Section 11. Section 166.0445, Florida Statutes, is amended  
to read:

166.0445 Family child ~~day~~ care homes; local zoning  
regulation.—The operation of a residence as a family child ~~day~~  
care home, as defined by law, registered or licensed with the  
Department of Children and Families shall constitute a valid  
residential use for purposes of any local zoning regulations,  
and no such regulation shall require the owner or operator of  
such family child ~~day~~ care home to obtain any special exemption  
or use permit or waiver, or to pay any special fee in excess of  
\$50, to operate in an area zoned for residential use.

Section 12. Paragraph (j) of subsection (7) of section



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212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

(7) MISCELLANEOUS EXEMPTIONS.—Exemptions provided to any entity by this chapter do not inure to any transaction that is otherwise taxable under this chapter when payment is made by a representative or employee of the entity by any means, including, but not limited to, cash, check, or credit card, even when that representative or employee is subsequently reimbursed by the entity. In addition, exemptions provided to any entity by this subsection do not inure to any transaction that is otherwise taxable under this chapter unless the entity has obtained a sales tax exemption certificate from the department or the entity obtains or provides other documentation as required by the department. Eligible purchases or leases made with such a certificate must be in strict compliance with this subsection and departmental rules, and any person who makes an exempt purchase with a certificate that is not in strict compliance with this subsection and the rules is liable for and shall pay the tax. The department may adopt rules to administer this subsection.

(j) *Household fuels*.—Also exempt from payment of the tax imposed by this chapter are sales of utilities to residential households or owners of residential models in this state by utility companies who pay the gross receipts tax imposed under





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s. 203.01, and sales of fuel to residential households or owners of residential models, including oil, kerosene, liquefied petroleum gas, coal, wood, and other fuel products used in the household or residential model for the purposes of heating, cooking, lighting, and refrigeration, regardless of whether such sales of utilities and fuels are separately metered and billed direct to the residents or are metered and billed to the landlord. If any part of the utility or fuel is used for a nonexempt purpose, the entire sale is taxable. The landlord shall provide a separate meter for nonexempt utility or fuel consumption. For the purposes of this paragraph, licensed family child day care homes shall also be exempt.

Section 13. Subsections (3), (8), (9), and (11) of section 402.302, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

(3) "Child care personnel" means all owners, operators, employees, and volunteers working in a child care facility. The term does not include persons who work in a child care facility after hours when children are not present or parents of children in a child care facility. For purposes of screening, the term includes any member, over the age of 12 years, of a child care facility operator's family, or person, over the age of 12 years, residing with a child care facility operator if the child care facility is located in or adjacent to the home of the operator or if the family member of, or person residing with, the child care facility operator has any direct contact with the children in the facility during its hours of operation. Members of the operator's family or persons residing with the operator who are between the ages of 12 years and 18 years are not required to be



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fingerprinted but must be screened for delinquency records. For purposes of screening, the term also includes persons who work in child care programs that provide care for children 15 hours or more each week in public or nonpublic schools, family child ~~day~~ care homes, membership organizations under s. 402.301, or programs otherwise exempted under s. 402.316. The term does not include public or nonpublic school personnel who are providing care during regular school hours, or after hours for activities related to a school's program for grades kindergarten through 12. A volunteer who assists on an intermittent basis for less than 10 hours per month is not included in the term "personnel" for the purposes of screening and training if a person who meets the screening requirement of s. 402.305(2) is always present and has the volunteer in his or her line of sight. Students who observe and participate in a child care facility as a part of their required coursework are not considered child care personnel, provided such observation and participation are on an intermittent basis and a person who meets the screening requirement of s. 402.305(2) is always present and has the student in his or her line of sight.

(8) "Family child ~~day~~ care home" means an occupied residence in which child care is regularly provided for children from at least two unrelated families and which receives a payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or not operated for profit. Household children under 13 years of age, when on the premises of the family child ~~day~~ care home or on a field trip with children enrolled in child care, shall be included in the overall capacity of the licensed home. A family child ~~day~~ care home shall be allowed to provide care



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for one of the following groups of children, which shall include household children under 13 years of age:

(a) A maximum of four children from birth to 12 months of age.

(b) A maximum of three children from birth to 12 months of age, and other children, for a maximum total of six children.

(c) A maximum of six preschool children if all are older than 12 months of age.

(d) A maximum of 10 children if no more than 5 are preschool age and, of those 5, no more than 2 are under 12 months of age.

(9) "Household children" means children who are related by blood, marriage, or legal adoption to, or who are the legal wards of, the family child ~~day~~ care home operator, the large family child care home operator, or an adult household member who permanently or temporarily resides in the home. Supervision of the operator's household children shall be left to the discretion of the operator unless those children receive subsidized child care through the school readiness program pursuant to s. 1002.92 to be in the home.

(11) "Large family child care home" means an occupied residence in which child care is regularly provided for children from at least two unrelated families, which receives a payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or not operated for profit, and which has at least two full-time child care personnel on the premises during the hours of operation. One of the two full-time child care personnel must be the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child care home must first have operated as a licensed family child



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~~day~~ care home for 2 years, with an operator who has had a child development associate credential or its equivalent for 1 year, before seeking licensure as a large family child care home. Household children under 13 years of age, when on the premises of the large family child care home or on a field trip with children enrolled in child care, shall be included in the overall capacity of the licensed home. A large family child care home shall be allowed to provide care for one of the following groups of children, which shall include household children under 13 years of age:

(a) A maximum of 8 children from birth to 24 months of age.

(b) A maximum of 12 children, with no more than 4 children under 24 months of age.

Section 14. Paragraph (a) of subsection (17) of section 402.305, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

(17) TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP.—

(a) One week prior to the transfer of ownership of a child care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home, the transferor shall notify the parent or caretaker of each child of the impending transfer.

Section 15. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section 402.309, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

402.309 Provisional license or registration.—

(1) The local licensing agency or the department, whichever is authorized to license child care facilities in a county, may issue a provisional license for child care facilities, family child ~~day~~ care homes, or large family child care homes, or a provisional registration for family child ~~day~~ care homes to



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applicants for an initial license or registration or to  
licensees or registrants seeking a renewal who are unable to  
meet all the standards provided for in ss. 402.301-402.319.

(2) A provisional license or registration may not be issued  
unless the operator or owner makes adequate provisions for the  
health and safety of the child. A provisional license may be  
issued for a child care facility if all of the screening  
materials have been timely submitted. A provisional license or  
registration may not be issued unless the child care facility,  
family child ~~day~~ care home, or large family child care home is  
in compliance with the requirements for screening of child care  
personnel in ss. 402.305, 402.3055, 402.313, and 402.3131,  
respectively.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), a local licensing  
agency or the department, whichever is authorized to license  
child care facilities in a county, must issue a provisional  
license or registration if the operator or owner:

(a) Is applying for an initial license or registration for  
a child care facility, a family child ~~day~~ care home, or a large  
family child care home;

(b) Has made adequate provisions for the health and safety  
of the child; and

(c) Provides evidence that he or she has completed, within  
the previous 6 months, training pursuant to United States  
Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02 and background  
screening by the United States Department of Defense pursuant to  
34 U.S.C. s. 20351 and 32 C.F.R. part 86 and received a  
favorable suitability and fitness determination.

Section 16. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) and subsection



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(4) of section 402.310, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

402.310 Disciplinary actions; hearings upon denial, suspension, or revocation of license or registration; administrative fines.—

(1)

(d) The disciplinary sanctions ~~set forth~~ in this section apply to licensed child care facilities, licensed large family child care homes, and licensed or registered family child ~~day~~ care homes.

(4) An applicant, registrant, or licensee shall have the right to appeal a decision of the local licensing agency to a representative of the department. Any required hearing shall be held in the county in which the child care facility, family child ~~day~~ care home, or large family child care home is being operated or is to be established. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 120.

Section 17. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 402.3115, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

402.3115 Elimination of duplicative and unnecessary inspections; abbreviated inspections.—

(1) The Department of Children and Families and local governmental agencies that license child care facilities shall develop and implement a plan to eliminate duplicative and unnecessary inspections of child care facilities, family child ~~day~~ care homes, and large family child care homes.

(2)(a) The department and the local governmental agencies shall develop and implement an abbreviated inspection plan for child care facilities, family child ~~day~~ care homes, and large family child care homes that meet all of the following



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conditions:

1. Have been licensed for at least 2 consecutive years.
2. Have not had a Class 1 deficiency, as defined by rule, for at least 2 consecutive years.
3. Have not had more than three of the same Class 2 deficiencies, as defined by rule, for at least 2 consecutive years.
4. Have received at least two full onsite renewal inspections in the most recent 2 years.
5. Do not have any current uncorrected violations.
6. Do not have any open regulatory complaints or active child protective services investigations.

Section 18. Section 402.312, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.312 License required; injunctive relief.—

(1) The operation of a child care facility without a license, a family child ~~day~~ care home without a license or registration, or a large family child care home without a license is prohibited. If the department or the local licensing agency discovers that a child care facility is being operated without a license, a family child ~~day~~ care home is being operated without a license or registration, or a large family child care home is being operated without a license, the department or local licensing agency is authorized to seek an injunction in the circuit court where the facility is located to enjoin continued operation of such facility, family child ~~day~~ care home, or large family child care home. When the court is closed for the transaction of judicial business, the department or local licensing agency is authorized to seek an emergency



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injunction to enjoin continued operation of such unlicensed facility, unregistered or unlicensed family child ~~day~~ care home, or unlicensed large family child care home, which injunction shall be continued, modified, or revoked on the next day of judicial business.

(2) Other grounds for seeking an injunction to close a child care facility, family child ~~day~~ care home, or a large family child care home are that:

(a) There is any violation of the standards applied under ss. 402.301-402.319 which threatens harm to any child in the child care facility, a family child ~~day~~ care home, or large family child care home.

(b) A licensee or registrant has repeatedly violated the standards provided for under ss. 402.301-402.319.

(c) A child care facility, family child ~~day~~ care home, or large family child care home continues to have children in attendance after the closing date established by the department or the local licensing agency.

(3) The department or local licensing agency may impose an administrative fine on any child care facility, family child ~~day~~ care home, or large family child care home operating without a license or registration, consistent with ~~the provisions of s.~~ 402.310.

Section 19. Subsection (3) of section 402.315, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.315 Funding; license fees.—

(3) The department shall collect a fee for any license it issues for a child care facility, family child ~~day~~ care home, or large family child care home pursuant to ss. 402.305, 402.313,





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and 402.3131.

(a) For a child care facility licensed pursuant to s. 402.305, such fee shall be \$1 per child, based on the licensed capacity of the facility, except that the minimum fee shall be \$25 per facility and the maximum fee shall be \$100 per facility.

(b) For a family child ~~day~~ care home registered pursuant to s. 402.313, such fee shall be \$25.

(c) For a family child ~~day~~ care home licensed pursuant to s. 402.313, such fee shall be \$50.

(d) For a large family child care home licensed pursuant to s. 402.3131, such fee shall be \$60.

Section 20. Subsection (2) of section 402.316, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.316 Exemptions.—

(2) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319 do not apply to a child care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home if the child care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home has a certificate issued by the United States Department of Defense or by the United States Coast Guard to provide child care and has completed background screening by the United States Department of Defense pursuant to 34 U.S.C. s. 20351 and 32 C.F.R. part 86 and received a favorable suitability and fitness determination. If the child care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home elects to serve children ineligible for care under the United States Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02, the child care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home must be licensed under this chapter.

Section 21. Section 402.318, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:



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402.318 Advertisement.—A person, as defined in s. 1.01(3), may not advertise a child care facility, family child ~~day~~ care home, or large family child care home without including within such advertisement the state or local agency license number or registration number of such facility or home. Violation of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

Section 22. Section 402.319, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.319 Penalties.—

(1) It is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, for any person knowingly to:

(a) Fail, by false statement, misrepresentation, impersonation, or other fraudulent means, to disclose in any application for voluntary or paid employment or licensure regulated under ss. 402.301-402.318 all information required under those sections or a material fact used in making a determination as to such person's qualifications to be child care personnel, as defined in s. 402.302, in a child care facility, family child ~~day~~ care home, or other child care program.

(b) Operate or attempt to operate a child care facility without having procured a license as required by this act.

(c) Operate or attempt to operate a family child ~~day~~ care home without a license or without registering with the department, whichever is applicable.

(d) Operate or attempt to operate a child care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home under a license that is suspended,



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revoked, or terminated.

(e) Misrepresent, by act or omission, a child care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home to be duly licensed pursuant to this act without being so licensed.

(f) Make any other misrepresentation, by act or omission, regarding the licensure or operation of a child care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home to a parent or guardian who has a child placed in the facility or is inquiring as to placing a child in the facility, or to a representative of the licensing authority, or to a representative of a law enforcement agency, including, but not limited to, any misrepresentation as to:

1. The number of children at the child care facility or the family child ~~day~~ care home;

2. The part of the child care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home designated for child care;

3. The qualifications or credentials of child care personnel;

4. Whether a family child ~~day~~ care home or child care facility complies with the screening requirements of s. 402.305; or

5. Whether child care personnel have the training as required by s. 402.305.

(2) If any child care personnel makes any misrepresentation in violation of this section to a parent or guardian who has placed a child in the child care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home, and the parent or guardian relied upon the misrepresentation, and the child suffers great bodily harm, permanent disfigurement, permanent disability, or death as a result of an intentional act or negligence by the child care



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personnel, then the child care personnel commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(3) Each child care facility, family child ~~day~~ care home, and large family child care home shall annually submit an affidavit of compliance with s. 39.201.

Section 23. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 409.988, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

409.988 Community-based care lead agency duties; general provisions.—

(2) LICENSURE.—

(c) Substitute care providers who are licensed under s. 409.175 and who have contracted with a lead agency are also authorized to provide registered or licensed family child ~~day~~ care under s. 402.313 if such care is consistent with federal law and if the home has met the requirements of s. 402.313.

Section 24. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section 411.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

411.203 Continuum of comprehensive services.—The Department of Education and the Department of Health shall utilize the continuum of prevention and early assistance services for high-risk pregnant women and for high-risk and handicapped children and their families, as outlined in this section, as a basis for the intraagency and interagency program coordination, monitoring, and analysis required in this chapter. The continuum shall be the guide for the comprehensive statewide approach for services for high-risk pregnant women and for high-risk and handicapped children and their families, and may be expanded or reduced as necessary for the enhancement of those services.



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Expansion or reduction of the continuum shall be determined by intraagency or interagency findings and agreement, whichever is applicable. Implementation of the continuum shall be based upon applicable eligibility criteria, availability of resources, and interagency prioritization when programs impact both agencies, or upon single agency prioritization when programs impact only one agency. The continuum shall include, but not be limited to:

(8) SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ALL EXPECTANT PARENTS AND PARENTS OF HIGH-RISK CHILDREN.—

(b) Child care and early childhood programs, including, but not limited to, licensed child care facilities, family child ~~day~~ care homes, therapeutic child care, Head Start, and preschool programs in public and private schools.

Section 25. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by private prekindergarten providers.—

(3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program, a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the following requirements:

(a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family child ~~day~~ care home licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home licensed under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from licensure under s. 402.3025(2), faith-based child care provider exempt from licensure under s. 402.316, child development program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a military installation that is certified by the United States Department of Defense, or private prekindergarten



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provider that has been issued a provisional license under s.  
402.309. A private prekindergarten provider may not deliver the  
program while holding a probation-status license under s.  
402.310.

Section 26. Paragraph (u) of subsection (2) of section  
1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

(2) The department shall:

(u) Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to provide  
assistance and consultation to child care facilities and family  
child day care homes regarding health, developmental,  
disability, and special needs issues of the children they are  
serving, particularly children with disabilities and other  
special needs. The department shall:

1. Annually inform child care facilities and family child  
~~day~~ care homes of the availability of this service through the  
child care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line to  
maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning coalition  
service area.

Section 27. Paragraph (j) of subsection (4) of section  
1002.83, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

(4) Each early learning coalition must include the  
following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,  
each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple  
nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be  
seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has  
more than one member representing the same entity, only one of



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such members may serve as a voting member:

(j) A representative of private for-profit child care providers, including private for-profit family child ~~day~~ care homes.

Section 28. Subsection (4) of section 1002.84, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the department pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u). Regional Warm-Line staff shall provide onsite technical assistance, when requested, to assist child care facilities and family child ~~day~~ care homes with inquiries relating to the strategies, curriculum, and environmental adaptations the child care facilities and family child ~~day~~ care homes may need as they serve children with disabilities and other special needs.

Section 29. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1) of section 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.88 School readiness program provider standards; eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

(1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness program, a school readiness program provider must:

(a) Be a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, a family child ~~day~~ care home licensed or registered under s. 402.313, a large family child care home licensed under s. 402.3131, a public school or nonpublic school exempt from licensure under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care provider exempt from licensure under s. 402.316, a before-school or after-school program described in s. 402.305(1)(c), a child



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development program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a military installation that is certified by the United States Department of Defense, an informal child care provider to the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and Development Fund Plan as approved by the United States Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.18, or a provider who has been issued a provisional license pursuant to s. 402.309. A provider may not deliver the program while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

(c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness program.

1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s. 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

2. For a provider that is a registered family child ~~day~~ care home or is not subject to licensure or registration by the Department of Children and Families, compliance with this subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement. Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the provider shall annually post the health and safety checklist adopted by the department prominently on its premises in plain sight for visitors and parents and shall annually submit the checklist to its local early learning coalition.

3. For a child development program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and operates on a military installation that is certified by the United States Department of Defense, the submission and verification of annual





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inspections pursuant to United States Department of Defense Instructions 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

Section 30. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 1002.895, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(2) The market rate schedule must differentiate rates by provider type, including, but not limited to:

(c) Family child ~~day~~ care homes licensed or registered under s. 402.313.

Section 31. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and subsection (4) of section 1002.92, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and referral.—

(3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall provide the following services:

(a) Identification of existing public and private child care and early childhood education services, including child care services by public and private employers, and the development of an early learning provider performance profile of those services through the single statewide information system developed by the department under s. 1002.82(2)(q). These services may include family child ~~day~~ care, public and private child care programs, the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, Head Start, the school readiness program, special education programs for prekindergarten children with disabilities, services for children with developmental disabilities, full-time and part-time programs, before-school and after-school programs, and vacation care programs. The early



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learning provider performance profile shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Type of program.
  2. Hours of service.
  3. Ages of children served.
  4. Number of children served.
  5. Program information.
  6. Fees and eligibility for services.
  7. Availability of transportation.
  8. Participation in the Child Care Food Program, if applicable.
  9. A link to licensing inspection reports, if applicable.
  10. The components of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program performance metric calculated under s. 1002.68 which must consist of the program assessment composite score, learning gains score, achievement score, and its designations, if applicable.
  11. The school readiness program assessment composite score and program assessment care level composite score results delineated by infant classrooms, toddler classrooms, and preschool classrooms results under s. 1002.82, if applicable.
  12. Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945, if applicable.
  13. Indication of whether the provider implements a curriculum approved by the department and the name of the curriculum, if applicable.
  14. Participation in school readiness child assessment under s. 1002.82.
- (4) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 and



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licensed and registered family child ~~day~~ care homes must provide the statewide child care and resource and referral network with the following information annually:

- (a) Type of program.
- (b) Hours of service.
- (c) Ages of children served.
- (d) Fees and eligibility for services.

Section 32. Subsection (2) of section 1002.93, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.—

(2) The transportation servicers may only provide transportation to each child participating in the school readiness program to the extent that such transportation is necessary to provide child care opportunities that otherwise would not be available to a child whose home is more than a reasonable walking distance from the nearest child care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home.

Section 33. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1), paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (3), and subsection (4) of section 1002.945, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.945 Gold Seal Quality Care Program.—

(1)

(b) A child care facility, large family child care home, or family child ~~day~~ care home that is accredited by an accrediting association approved by the Department of Education under subsection (3) and meets all other requirements shall, upon application to the department, receive a separate "Gold Seal Quality Care" designation.

(3)(a) In order to be approved by the Department of



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Education for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, an accrediting association must apply to the department and demonstrate that it:

1. Is a recognized accrediting association.
2. Has accrediting standards that substantially meet or exceed the Gold Seal Quality Care standards adopted by the state board under subsection (2).
3. Is a registered corporation with the Department of State.
4. Can provide evidence that the process for accreditation has, at a minimum, all of the following components:
  - a. Clearly defined prerequisites that a child care provider must meet before beginning the accreditation process. However, accreditation may not be granted to a child care facility, large family child care home, or family child ~~day~~ care home before the site is operational and is attended by children.
  - b. Procedures for completion of a self-study and comprehensive onsite verification process for each classroom that documents compliance with accrediting standards.
  - c. A training process for accreditation verifiers to ensure inter-rater reliability.
  - d. Ongoing compliance procedures that include requiring each accredited child care facility, large family child care home, and family child ~~day~~ care home to file an annual report with the accrediting association and risk-based, onsite auditing protocols for accredited child care facilities, large family child care homes, and family child ~~day~~ care homes.
  - e. Procedures for the revocation of accreditation due to failure to maintain accrediting standards as evidenced by sub-



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subparagraph d. or any other relevant information received by the accrediting association.

f. Accreditation renewal procedures that include an onsite verification occurring at least every 5 years.

g. A process for verifying continued accreditation compliance in the event of a transfer of ownership of facilities.

h. A process to communicate issues that arise during the accreditation period with governmental entities that have a vested interest in the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, including the Department of Education, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, local licensing entities if applicable, and the early learning coalition.

(c) If an accrediting association has granted accreditation to a child care facility, large family child care home, or family child ~~day~~ care under fraudulent terms or failed to conduct onsite verifications, the accrediting association shall be liable for the repayment of any rate differentials paid under subsection (6).

(4) In order to obtain and maintain a designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider, a child care facility, large family child care home, or family child ~~day~~ care home must meet the following additional criteria:

(a) The child care provider must not have had any class I violations, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and Families, within the 2 years preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of a class I violation shall be grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the



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provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.

(b) The child care provider must not have had three or more of the same class II violations, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and Families, within the 2 years preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of three or more of the same class II violations within a 2-year period shall be grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the provider has no class II violations that are the same for a period of 1 year.

(c) The child care provider must not have been cited for the same class III violation, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and Families, three or more times and failed to correct the violation within 1 year after the date of each citation, within the 2 years preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of the same class III violation three or more times and failure to correct within the required time during a 2-year period may be grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III violations for a period of 1 year.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the Department of Education determines through a formal process that a provider has been in business for at least 5 years and has no other class I violations recorded, the department may recommend to the state board that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care status. The state board's determination regarding such provider's status is final.

Section 34. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.



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===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause  
and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to child care and early learning  
services; amending s. 402.306, F.S.; revising the  
information on child care required to be disseminated  
electronically to the community; amending ss. 402.313  
and 402.3131, F.S.; deleting the requirement that  
family child care homes and large family child care  
homes, respectively, provide specified information to  
parents each year; conforming provisions to changes  
made by the act; amending s. 402.316, F.S.; requiring  
that certain child care facilities exempt from  
licensure requirements meet certain minimum  
requirements; providing that failure to meet such  
minimum requirements results in the loss of the  
exemption from licensure; requiring child care  
facilities exempt from licensure requirements to  
include a specified statement on its website and in  
its promotional materials and facility-created  
documents and forms provided to families served by the  
child care facility; amending s. 627.70161, F.S.;  
changing the term "family day care home" to "family  
child care home"; providing legislative findings and  
intent relating to large family child care homes;  
defining the term "large family child care home";



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1345 prohibiting residential property insurance policies  
1346 from providing coverage for liability for claims  
1347 arising out of, or in connection with, the operations  
1348 of large family child care homes; providing that  
1349 insurers are under no obligation to defend against  
1350 lawsuits covering such claims; providing exceptions;  
1351 prohibiting insurers from denying, cancelling, or  
1352 refusing to renew a policy for residential property  
1353 insurance on the basis that the policyholders or  
1354 applicants operate large family child care homes;  
1355 providing exceptions; reenacting and amending s.  
1356 1001.24, F.S.; revising the definition of the term  
1357 "Department of Education direct-support organization";  
1358 creating s. 1002.80, F.S.; providing a short title;  
1359 defining terms; providing legislative intent;  
1360 establishing the Florida Endowment for Early Learning  
1361 Foundation within a Department of Education direct-  
1362 support organization for a specified purpose;  
1363 requiring that the endowment fund principal derive  
1364 from specified sources; requiring the board of  
1365 directors to establish and deposit money into the  
1366 operating account; requiring such money to be used for  
1367 a specified purpose; requiring that funds from state  
1368 sources be accounted for separately from public and  
1369 private sources; specifying powers and duties of the  
1370 board of directors; requiring the board to use the  
1371 moneys in the operating account for specified  
1372 purposes; providing for early learning provider  
1373 selection, copay pricing, reimbursement, and





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1374 administrative requirements; prohibiting state funds  
1375 from being spent in certain donors or supporters;  
1376 requiring the Division of Early Learning to include  
1377 specified information in its annual report of its  
1378 activities; requiring the Department of Education to  
1379 adopt rules; amending s. 1002.95, F.S.; requiring the  
1380 administrator of the Teacher Education and  
1381 Compensation Helps Scholarship Program, subject to an  
1382 appropriation, to establish and administer the Center  
1383 for Early Childhood Professional Recognition for a  
1384 specified purpose; amending ss. 39.202, 125.0109,  
1385 166.0445, 212.08, 402.302, 402.305, 402.309, 402.310,  
1386 402.3115, 402.312, 402.315, 402.316, 402.318, 402.319,  
1387 409.988, 411.203, 1002.55, 1002.82, 1002.83, 1002.84,  
1388 1002.88, 1002.895, 1002.92, 1002.93, and 1002.945,  
1389 F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the  
1390 act; providing an effective date.