



LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/03/2026	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

---

The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs  
(Calatayud) recommended the following:

1                   **Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

2  
3                   Delete everything after the enacting clause  
4 and insert:

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

7                   402.306 Designation of licensing agency; dissemination by  
8 the department and local licensing agency of information on  
9 child care.—

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



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

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

28 402.313 Family child day care homes.—

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

89 (5) In order to further develop their child care skills  
90 and, if appropriate, their administrative skills, operators of  
91 family child day care homes shall be required to complete an  
92 additional 1 continuing education unit of approved training or  
93 10 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the  
94 department, annually.

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



109638

98 from birth to 5 years of age one time. The year that this  
99 training is completed, it shall fulfill the 0.5 continuing  
100 education unit or 5 clock hours of the annual training required  
101 in subsection (5).

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

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

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

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

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



109638

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

155 (c) The number of complaints received concerning family



109638

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



109638

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

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

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

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

213 402.3131 Large family child care homes.—



109638

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

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

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

237        402.316 Exemptions.—

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



109638

243 ~~care to eligible children as defined in s. 402.261(1)(c),~~  
244 conducting regularly scheduled classes, courses of study, or  
245 educational programs accredited by, or by a member of, an  
246 organization that ~~which~~ publishes and requires compliance with  
247 its standards for health, safety, and sanitation. ~~However,~~ Such  
248 facilities must ~~shall~~ meet minimum requirements of the  
249 applicable local governing body as to health, sanitation, and  
250 safety ~~and shall meet the screening requirements pursuant to ss.~~  
251 ~~402.305 and 402.3055~~. Failure by a facility to comply with ~~such~~  
252 screening requirements pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055  
253 shall result in the loss of the facility's exemption from  
254 licensure.

255 (2) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319, except for the  
256 requirements regarding screening of child care personnel  
257 pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055, do not apply to a child  
258 care facility that solely provides child care to eligible  
259 children as defined in s. 402.261(1)(c). Such facilities must  
260 meet minimum requirements of the applicable local governing body  
261 as to health, sanitation, and safety. Failure by a facility to  
262 comply with screening requirements pursuant to ss. 402.305 and  
263 402.3055 shall result in the loss of the facility's exemption  
264 from licensure.

265 (3)-(2) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319 do not apply  
266 to a child care facility or family ~~child~~ ~~day~~ care home if the  
267 child care facility or family ~~child~~ ~~day~~ care home has a  
268 certificate issued by the United States Department of Defense or  
269 by the United States Coast Guard to provide child care and has  
270 completed background screening by the United States Department  
271 of Defense pursuant to 34 U.S.C. s. 20351 and 32 C.F.R. part 86



109638

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

278 (4) (3) Any child care facility covered by the exemption  
279 under subsection (1) or subsection (2) which desires to be  
280 licensed may submit an application to the department or local  
281 licensing agency pursuant to s. 402.308(4).

282 (5) (4) The department and the local licensing agency  
283 pursuant to s. 402.308(4) shall adopt rules to administer and  
284 implement this section, including, but not limited to, any  
285 assessments of previous licensure history.

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

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

297 627.70161 Family child day care and large family child care  
298 insurance.—

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



109638

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

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

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

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

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



109638

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

345       1. A maximum of 8 children from birth to 24 months of age.  
346       2. A maximum of 12 children, with no more than 4 children  
347 under 24 months of age.

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

355       (a) Specifically covered in a policy; or  
356       (b) Covered by a rider or endorsement for business coverage  
357 attached to a policy.

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



109638

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

367 (a) The policyholder or applicant provides care for more  
368 children than authorized ~~for family day care homes~~ by s.  
369 402.302;

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

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

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

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

385 1001.24 Direct-support organization; use of property; board  
386 of directors; audit.—

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



109638

388 term:

389 (a) "Department of Education direct-support organization"

390 means an organization:

391 1. That is a corporation not for profit that is

392 incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved by

393 the Department of State.

394 2. That is organized and operated exclusively to receive,

395 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures

396 to or for the benefit of the state's early learning programs for

397 children from birth to 5 years of age and public prekindergarten

398 through 12th grade education in this state.

399 3. That the State Board of Education, after review, has

400 certified to be operating in a manner consistent with the goals

401 and best interest of the Department of Education.

402 (b) "Personal services" includes full-time or part-time

403 personnel, as well as payroll processing.

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

405 (a) May permit the use of property, facilities, and

406 personal services of the department by the direct-support

407 organization, subject to the provisions of this section.

408 (b) Shall prescribe by rule conditions with which the

409 direct-support organization must comply in order to use

410 property, facilities, or personal services of the department.

411 Such rules shall provide for budget and audit review and for

412 oversight by the department.

413 (c) Shall not permit the use of property, facilities, or

414 personal services of the direct-support organization if such

415 organization does not provide equal employment opportunities to

416 all persons, regardless of race, color, national origin, gender,



417 age, or religion.

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

422 (4) ANNUAL AUDIT.—Each direct-support organization shall  
423 provide for an annual financial audit in accordance with s.  
424 215.981. The identity of donors who desire to remain anonymous  
425 shall be protected, and that anonymity shall be maintained in  
426 the auditor's report. All records of the organization other than  
427 the auditor's report, management letter, and any supplemental  
428 data requested by the Auditor General and the Office of Program  
429 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall be  
430 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

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

433 1002.80 Florida Endowment for Early Learning.—

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

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

437 (a) “Board” means the board of directors of the Department  
438 of Education direct-support organization under s. 1001.24.

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

444 (c) “Foundation” means the Department of Education direct-  
445 support organization under s. 1001.24.



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

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

459        Accordingly, the Legislature further finds and declares that:

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

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

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

473        (4) REVENUE FOR THE ENDOWMENT FUND.—

474        (a) The Florida Endowment for Early Learning is established



109638

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



109638

533 department.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



109638

562 1002.82(7) summarizing the performance of the endowment fund for  
563 the previous fiscal year, summarizing the foundation's  
564 fundraising activities and performance, and detailing the  
565 activities and programs supported by the endowment principal or  
566 earnings on the endowment principal and the activities and  
567 programs supported by private sources, bequests, gifts, grants,  
568 donations, and other valued goods and services received. The  
569 report must also include all of the following:

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

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

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

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

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

583 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)  
584 Scholarship Program.—

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



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

593 Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
594 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

595 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of  
596 child abuse or neglect; exception.—

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

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

- 607 1. Child or adult protective investigations;
- 608 2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;
- 609 3. Early intervention and prevention services;
- 610 4. Healthy Start services;

611 5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes,  
612 child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapters 393  
613 and 394, family child day care homes, providers who receive  
614 school readiness funding under part VI of chapter 1002, or other  
615 homes used to provide for the care and welfare of children;

616 6. Employment screening for caregivers in residential group  
617 homes and facilities licensed under chapters 393, 394, and 409;  
618 or

- 619 7. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided



109638

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

622  
623 Also, employees or agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice  
624 responsible for the provision of services to children, pursuant  
625 to chapters 984 and 985.

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

628 125.0109 Family child day care homes; local zoning  
629 regulation.—The operation of a residence as a family child day  
630 care home, as defined by law, registered or licensed with the  
631 Department of Children and Families shall constitute a valid  
632 residential use for purposes of any local zoning regulations,  
633 and no such regulation shall require the owner or operator of  
634 such family child day care home to obtain any special exemption  
635 or use permit or waiver, or to pay any special fee in excess of  
636 \$50, to operate in an area zoned for residential use.

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

639 166.0445 Family child day care homes; local zoning  
640 regulation.—The operation of a residence as a family child day  
641 care home, as defined by law, registered or licensed with the  
642 Department of Children and Families shall constitute a valid  
643 residential use for purposes of any local zoning regulations,  
644 and no such regulation shall require the owner or operator of  
645 such family child day care home to obtain any special exemption  
646 or use permit or waiver, or to pay any special fee in excess of  
647 \$50, to operate in an area zoned for residential use.

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



109638

649 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

650 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and  
651 storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the  
652 rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the  
653 storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following  
654 are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this  
655 chapter.

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

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



109638

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

690 Section 13. Subsections (3), (8), (9), and (11) of section  
691 402.302, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

692 402.302 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

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



109638

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

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



109638

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



109638

765 ~~day~~ care home for 2 years, with an operator who has had a child  
766 development associate credential or its equivalent for 1 year,  
767 before seeking licensure as a large family child care home.  
768 Household children under 13 years of age, when on the premises  
769 of the large family child care home or on a field trip with  
770 children enrolled in child care, shall be included in the  
771 overall capacity of the licensed home. A large family child care  
772 home shall be allowed to provide care for one of the following  
773 groups of children, which shall include household children under  
774 13 years of age:

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

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

778 Section 14. Paragraph (a) of subsection (17) of section  
779 402.305, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

780 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

781 (17) TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP.—

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

786 Section 15. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section  
787 402.309, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

788 402.309 Provisional license or registration.—

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



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

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

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

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

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

816 (c) Provides evidence that he or she has completed, within  
817 the previous 6 months, training pursuant to United States  
818 Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02 and background  
819 screening by the United States Department of Defense pursuant to  
820 34 U.S.C. s. 20351 and 32 C.F.R. part 86 and received a  
821 favorable suitability and fitness determination.

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



109638

823 (4) of section 402.310, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
824 402.310 Disciplinary actions; hearings upon denial,  
825 suspension, or revocation of license or registration;  
826 administrative fines.—

827 (1)

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

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

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

841 402.3115 Elimination of duplicative and unnecessary  
842 inspections; abbreviated inspections.—

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

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



852 conditions:

- 853 1. Have been licensed for at least 2 consecutive years.
- 854 2. Have not had a Class 1 deficiency, as defined by rule,  
for at least 2 consecutive years.
- 855 3. Have not had more than three of the same Class 2  
deficiencies, as defined by rule, for at least 2 consecutive  
years.
- 856 4. Have received at least two full onsite renewal  
inspections in the most recent 2 years.

- 857 5. Do not have any current uncorrected violations.
- 858 6. Do not have any open regulatory complaints or active  
child protective services investigations.

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

861 402.312 License required; injunctive relief.—  
862 (1) The operation of a child care facility without a  
863 license, a family child day care home without a license or  
864 registration, or a large family child care home without a  
865 license is prohibited. If the department or the local licensing  
866 agency discovers that a child care facility is being operated  
867 without a license, a family child day care home is being  
868 operated without a license or registration, or a large family  
869 child care home is being operated without a license, the  
870 department or local licensing agency is authorized to seek an  
871 injunction in the circuit court where the facility is located to  
872 enjoin continued operation of such facility, family child day  
873 care home, or large family child care home. When the court is  
874 closed for the transaction of judicial business, the department  
875 or local licensing agency is authorized to seek an emergency



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

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

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

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

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

899 (3) The department or local licensing agency may impose an  
900 administrative fine on any child care facility, family child ~~day~~  
901 care home, or large family child care home operating without a  
902 license or registration, consistent with ~~the provisions of~~ s.  
903 402.310.

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

906 402.315 Funding; license fees.—

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



910 and 402.3131.

911 (a) For a child care facility licensed pursuant to s. 912 402.305, such fee shall be \$1 per child, based on the licensed 913 capacity of the facility, except that the minimum fee shall be 914 \$25 per facility and the maximum fee shall be \$100 per facility.

915 (b) For a family child day care home registered pursuant to 916 s. 402.313, such fee shall be \$25.

917 (c) For a family child day care home licensed pursuant to 918 s. 402.313, such fee shall be \$50.

919 (d) For a large family child care home licensed pursuant to 920 s. 402.3131, such fee shall be \$60.

921 Section 20. Subsection (2) of section 402.316, Florida 922 Statutes, is amended to read:

923 402.316 Exemptions.—

924 (2) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319 do not apply to a 925 child care facility or family child day care home if the child 926 care facility or family child day care home has a certificate 927 issued by the United States Department of Defense or by the 928 United States Coast Guard to provide child care and has 929 completed background screening by the United States Department 930 of Defense pursuant to 34 U.S.C. s. 20351 and 32 C.F.R. part 86 931 and received a favorable suitability and fitness determination. 932 If the child care facility or family child day care home elects 933 to serve children ineligible for care under the United States 934 Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02, the child care 935 facility or family child day care home must be licensed under 936 this chapter.

937 Section 21. Section 402.318, Florida Statutes, is amended 938 to read:



939        402.318 Advertisement.—A person, as defined in s. 1.01(3),  
940 may not advertise a child care facility, family child day care  
941 home, or large family child care home without including within  
942 such advertisement the state or local agency license number or  
943 registration number of such facility or home. Violation of this  
944 section is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as  
945 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

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

948        402.319 Penalties.—

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

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

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

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

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



109638

968 revoked, or terminated.

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

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

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

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

983 3. The qualifications or credentials of child care  
984 personnel;

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

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

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



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

1000 (3) Each child care facility, family child day care home,  
1001 and large family child care home shall annually submit an  
1002 affidavit of compliance with s. 39.201.

1003 Section 23. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
1004 409.988, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1005 409.988 Community-based care lead agency duties; general  
1006 provisions.—

1007 (2) LICENSURE.—

1008 (c) Substitute care providers who are licensed under s.  
1009 409.175 and who have contracted with a lead agency are also  
1010 authorized to provide registered or licensed family child day  
1011 care under s. 402.313 if such care is consistent with federal  
1012 law and if the home has met the requirements of s. 402.313.

1013 Section 24. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section  
1014 411.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1015 411.203 Continuum of comprehensive services.—The Department  
1016 of Education and the Department of Health shall utilize the  
1017 continuum of prevention and early assistance services for high-  
1018 risk pregnant women and for high-risk and handicapped children  
1019 and their families, as outlined in this section, as a basis for  
1020 the intraagency and interagency program coordination,  
1021 monitoring, and analysis required in this chapter. The continuum  
1022 shall be the guide for the comprehensive statewide approach for  
1023 services for high-risk pregnant women and for high-risk and  
1024 handicapped children and their families, and may be expanded or  
1025 reduced as necessary for the enhancement of those services.



1026 Expansion or reduction of the continuum shall be determined by  
1027 intraagency or interagency findings and agreement, whichever is  
1028 applicable. Implementation of the continuum shall be based upon  
1029 applicable eligibility criteria, availability of resources, and  
1030 interagency prioritization when programs impact both agencies,  
1031 or upon single agency prioritization when programs impact only  
1032 one agency. The continuum shall include, but not be limited to:

1033 (8) SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ALL EXPECTANT PARENTS AND PARENTS  
1034 OF HIGH-RISK CHILDREN.—

1035 (b) Child care and early childhood programs, including, but  
1036 not limited to, licensed child care facilities, family child day  
1037 care homes, therapeutic child care, Head Start, and preschool  
1038 programs in public and private schools.

1039 Section 25. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
1040 1002.55, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1041 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
1042 private prekindergarten providers.—

1043 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,  
1044 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the  
1045 following requirements:

1046 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child  
1047 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family child day care  
1048 home licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home  
1049 licensed under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from  
1050 licensure under s. 402.3025(2), faith-based child care provider  
1051 exempt from licensure under s. 402.316, child development  
1052 program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and  
1053 operates on a military installation that is certified by the  
1054 United States Department of Defense, or private prekindergarten



1055 provider that has been issued a provisional license under s.  
1056 402.309. A private prekindergarten provider may not deliver the  
1057 program while holding a probation-status license under s.  
1058 402.310.

1059       Section 26. Paragraph (u) of subsection (2) of section  
1060 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1061       1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

1062       (2) The department shall:

1063       (u) Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to provide  
1064 assistance and consultation to child care facilities and family  
1065 child day care homes regarding health, developmental,  
1066 disability, and special needs issues of the children they are  
1067 serving, particularly children with disabilities and other  
1068 special needs. The department shall:

1069       1. Annually inform child care facilities and family child  
1070 day care homes of the availability of this service through the  
1071 child care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

1072       2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line to  
1073 maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning coalition  
1074 service area.

1075       Section 27. Paragraph (j) of subsection (4) of section  
1076 1002.83, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1077       1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

1078       (4) Each early learning coalition must include the  
1079 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,  
1080 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple  
1081 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be  
1082 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has  
1083 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of



1084 such members may serve as a voting member:

1085 (j) A representative of private for-profit child care  
1086 providers, including private for-profit family child day care  
1087 homes.

1088 Section 28. Subsection (4) of section 1002.84, Florida  
1089 Statutes, is amended to read:

1090 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers  
1091 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

1092 (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the  
1093 department pursuant to s. 1002.82(2) (u). Regional Warm-Line  
1094 staff shall provide onsite technical assistance, when requested,  
1095 to assist child care facilities and family child day care homes  
1096 with inquiries relating to the strategies, curriculum, and  
1097 environmental adaptations the child care facilities and family  
1098 child day care homes may need as they serve children with  
1099 disabilities and other special needs.

1100 Section 29. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1) of  
1101 section 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1102 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards;  
1103 eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

1104 (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness program,  
1105 a school readiness program provider must:

1106 (a) Be a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, a  
1107 family child day care home licensed or registered under s.  
1108 402.313, a large family child care home licensed under s.  
1109 402.3131, a public school or nonpublic school exempt from  
1110 licensure under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care provider  
1111 exempt from licensure under s. 402.316, a before-school or  
1112 after-school program described in s. 402.305(1) (c), a child



1113 development program that is accredited by a national accrediting  
1114 body and operates on a military installation that is certified  
1115 by the United States Department of Defense, an informal child  
1116 care provider to the extent authorized in the state's Child Care  
1117 and Development Fund Plan as approved by the United States  
1118 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s.  
1119 98.18, or a provider who has been issued a provisional license  
1120 pursuant to s. 402.309. A provider may not deliver the program  
1121 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

1122 (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and  
1123 facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate  
1124 immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness  
1125 program.

1126 1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s.  
1127 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as  
1128 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

1129 2. For a provider that is a registered family child day  
1130 care home or is not subject to licensure or registration by the  
1131 Department of Children and Families, compliance with this  
1132 subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this  
1133 requirement. Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the  
1134 provider shall annually post the health and safety checklist  
1135 adopted by the department prominently on its premises in plain  
1136 sight for visitors and parents and shall annually submit the  
1137 checklist to its local early learning coalition.

1138 3. For a child development program that is accredited by a  
1139 national accrediting body and operates on a military  
1140 installation that is certified by the United States Department  
1141 of Defense, the submission and verification of annual



1142 inspections pursuant to United States Department of Defense  
1143 Instructions 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

1144 Section 30. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
1145 1002.895, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1146 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness program  
1147 market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

1148 (2) The market rate schedule must differentiate rates by  
1149 provider type, including, but not limited to:

1150 (c) Family child day care homes licensed or registered  
1151 under s. 402.313.

1152 Section 31. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and subsection  
1153 (4) of section 1002.92, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1154 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and  
1155 referral.—

1156 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall provide  
1157 the following services:

1158 (a) Identification of existing public and private child  
1159 care and early childhood education services, including child  
1160 care services by public and private employers, and the  
1161 development of an early learning provider performance profile of  
1162 those services through the single statewide information system  
1163 developed by the department under s. 1002.82(2)(q). These  
1164 services may include family child day care, public and private  
1165 child care programs, the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1166 Program, Head Start, the school readiness program, special  
1167 education programs for prekindergarten children with  
1168 disabilities, services for children with developmental  
1169 disabilities, full-time and part-time programs, before-school  
1170 and after-school programs, and vacation care programs. The early



1171 learning provider performance profile shall include, but not be  
1172 limited to:

1173 1. Type of program.

1174 2. Hours of service.

1175 3. Ages of children served.

1176 4. Number of children served.

1177 5. Program information.

1178 6. Fees and eligibility for services.

1179 7. Availability of transportation.

1180 8. Participation in the Child Care Food Program, if  
1181 applicable.

1182 9. A link to licensing inspection reports, if applicable.

1183 10. The components of the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1184 Education Program performance metric calculated under s. 1002.68  
1185 which must consist of the program assessment composite score,  
1186 learning gains score, achievement score, and its designations,  
1187 if applicable.

1188 11. The school readiness program assessment composite score  
1189 and program assessment care level composite score results  
1190 delineated by infant classrooms, toddler classrooms, and  
1191 preschool classrooms results under s. 1002.82, if applicable.

1192 12. Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945,  
1193 if applicable.

1194 13. Indication of whether the provider implements a  
1195 curriculum approved by the department and the name of the  
1196 curriculum, if applicable.

1197 14. Participation in school readiness child assessment  
1198 under s. 1002.82.

1199 (4) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 and



1200 licensed and registered family child day care homes must provide  
1201 the statewide child care and resource and referral network with  
1202 the following information annually:

- 1203 (a) Type of program.
- 1204 (b) Hours of service.
- 1205 (c) Ages of children served.
- 1206 (d) Fees and eligibility for services.

1207 Section 32. Subsection (2) of section 1002.93, Florida  
1208 Statutes, is amended to read:

1209 1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.—

1210 (2) The transportation servicers may only provide  
1211 transportation to each child participating in the school  
1212 readiness program to the extent that such transportation is  
1213 necessary to provide child care opportunities that otherwise  
1214 would not be available to a child whose home is more than a  
1215 reasonable walking distance from the nearest child care facility  
1216 or family child day care home.

1217 Section 33. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1), paragraphs (a)  
1218 and (c) of subsection (3), and subsection (4) of section  
1219 1002.945, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1220 1002.945 Gold Seal Quality Care Program.—

1221 (1)

1222 (b) A child care facility, large family child care home, or  
1223 family child day care home that is accredited by an accrediting  
1224 association approved by the Department of Education under  
1225 subsection (3) and meets all other requirements shall, upon  
1226 application to the department, receive a separate "Gold Seal  
1227 Quality Care" designation.

1228 (3) (a) In order to be approved by the Department of



1229 Education for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care  
1230 Program, an accrediting association must apply to the department  
1231 and demonstrate that it:

1232 1. Is a recognized accrediting association.

1233 2. Has accrediting standards that substantially meet or  
1234 exceed the Gold Seal Quality Care standards adopted by the state  
1235 board under subsection (2).

1236 3. Is a registered corporation with the Department of  
1237 State.

1238 4. Can provide evidence that the process for accreditation  
1239 has, at a minimum, all of the following components:

1240 a. Clearly defined prerequisites that a child care provider  
1241 must meet before beginning the accreditation process. However,  
1242 accreditation may not be granted to a child care facility, large  
1243 family child care home, or family child day care home before the  
1244 site is operational and is attended by children.

1245 b. Procedures for completion of a self-study and  
1246 comprehensive onsite verification process for each classroom  
1247 that documents compliance with accrediting standards.

1248 c. A training process for accreditation verifiers to ensure  
1249 inter-rater reliability.

1250 d. Ongoing compliance procedures that include requiring  
1251 each accredited child care facility, large family child care  
1252 home, and family child day care home to file an annual report  
1253 with the accrediting association and risk-based, onsite auditing  
1254 protocols for accredited child care facilities, large family  
1255 child care homes, and family child day care homes.

1256 e. Procedures for the revocation of accreditation due to  
1257 failure to maintain accrediting standards as evidenced by sub-



1258 subparagraph d. or any other relevant information received by  
1259 the accrediting association.

1260 f. Accreditation renewal procedures that include an onsite  
1261 verification occurring at least every 5 years.

1262 g. A process for verifying continued accreditation  
1263 compliance in the event of a transfer of ownership of  
1264 facilities.

1265 h. A process to communicate issues that arise during the  
1266 accreditation period with governmental entities that have a  
1267 vested interest in the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, including  
1268 the Department of Education, the Department of Children and  
1269 Families, the Department of Health, local licensing entities if  
1270 applicable, and the early learning coalition.

1271 (c) If an accrediting association has granted accreditation  
1272 to a child care facility, large family child care home, or  
1273 family child day care under fraudulent terms or failed to  
1274 conduct onsite verifications, the accrediting association shall  
1275 be liable for the repayment of any rate differentials paid under  
1276 subsection (6).

1277 (4) In order to obtain and maintain a designation as a Gold  
1278 Seal Quality Care provider, a child care facility, large family  
1279 child care home, or family child day care home must meet the  
1280 following additional criteria:

1281 (a) The child care provider must not have had any class I  
1282 violations, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and  
1283 Families, within the 2 years preceding its application for  
1284 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of  
1285 a class I violation shall be grounds for termination of the  
1286 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the



1287 provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.

1288 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or more  
1289 of the same class II violations, as defined by rule of the  
1290 Department of Children and Families, within the 2 years  
1291 preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality  
1292 Care provider. Commission of three or more of the same class II  
1293 violations within a 2-year period shall be grounds for  
1294 termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care  
1295 provider until the provider has no class II violations that are  
1296 the same for a period of 1 year.

1297 (c) The child care provider must not have been cited for  
1298 the same class III violation, as defined by rule of the  
1299 Department of Children and Families, three or more times and  
1300 failed to correct the violation within 1 year after the date of  
1301 each citation, within the 2 years preceding its application for  
1302 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of  
1303 the same class III violation three or more times and failure to  
1304 correct within the required time during a 2-year period may be  
1305 grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal  
1306 Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III  
1307 violations for a period of 1 year.

1308 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the Department of  
1309 Education determines through a formal process that a provider  
1310 has been in business for at least 5 years and has no other class  
1311 I violations recorded, the department may recommend to the state  
1312 board that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care  
1313 status. The state board's determination regarding such  
1314 provider's status is final.

1315 Section 34. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.



109638

1316  
1317 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====  
1318 And the title is amended as follows:  
1319 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
1320 and insert:  
1321 A bill to be entitled  
1322 An act relating to child care and early learning  
1323 services; amending s. 402.306, F.S.; revising the  
1324 information on child care required to be disseminated  
1325 electronically to the community; amending ss. 402.313  
1326 and 402.3131, F.S.; deleting the requirement that  
1327 family child care homes and large family child care  
1328 homes, respectively, provide specified information to  
1329 parents each year; conforming provisions to changes  
1330 made by the act; amending s. 402.316, F.S.; requiring  
1331 that certain child care facilities exempt from  
1332 licensure requirements meet certain minimum  
1333 requirements; providing that failure to meet such  
1334 minimum requirements results in the loss of the  
1335 exemption from licensure; requiring child care  
1336 facilities exempt from licensure requirements to  
1337 include a specified statement on its website and in  
1338 its promotional materials and facility-created  
1339 documents and forms provided to families served by the  
1340 child care facility; amending s. 627.70161, F.S.;  
1341 changing the term "family day care home" to "family  
1342 child care home"; providing legislative findings and  
1343 intent relating to large family child care homes;  
1344 defining the term "large family child care home";



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



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.