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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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03/04/2026 05:38 PM

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Senator Calatayud moved the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Between lines 477 and 478

insert:

Section 7. Section 1002.821, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

1002.821 Florida Child Care Fund.—The Florida Child Care
Fund is established to support early learning and child care
needs of Florida families.

(1) A Department of Education direct-support organization
established pursuant to s. 1001.24 shall administer the fund.



12 (2) (a) Any bequests, gifts, grants, and donations made to
13 the fund as may be solicited for such purpose from public or
14 private sources shall be deposited into the Early Learning Fund.

15 (b) Any legislative appropriation from the Child Care and
16 Development Block Grant Trust Fund which may be provided to the
17 Florida Child Care Fund shall be deposited into the Early
18 Learning Fund and shall be used to fund children from the
19 waiting list under subparagraph (3) (a)1.

20 (c) Any funds received from state sources and interest
21 earnings shall be accounted for separately.

22 (3) Funds shall be used for the following purposes:

23 (a) To provide care for children from birth until the child
24 is eligible to enroll in kindergarten in accordance with:

25 1. An allocation methodology to fund the waiting list of
26 early learning coalitions; or

27 2. The intentions of a donor.

28 (b) The early learning coalition shall fund school
29 readiness program providers and providers selected by the
30 donor's recipient at the reimbursement rate calculated pursuant
31 to s. 1002.84(17). If the provider selected by the donor's
32 recipient is not a school readiness program provider, the
33 department shall adopt a contract for use by an early learning
34 coalition with the provider to provide such funds.

35 (c) Any family served under subparagraph (a)1. shall have
36 an early learning coalition apply a parent copayment based on
37 family income pursuant to s. 1002.84(9) or s. 1002.935(2) (b).

38 (4) Beginning January 1, 2027, and each January 1
39 thereafter, the Division of Early Learning shall prepare, and
40 the department shall publish on its website, a report that



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41 summarizes the performance of the Florida Child Care Fund and
42 the fund's fundraising activities for the previous fiscal year,
43 and identifies the child care needs supported by the fund
44 principal or earnings and those supported by private sources,
45 bequests, gifts, grants, and donations. The report must also
46 include:

47 (a) Outcome data, including the number of children served
48 and any child outcomes, by each early learning coalition.

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

52
53 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

54 And the title is amended as follows:

55 Delete line 37

56 and insert:

57 organization"; creating s. 1002.821, F.S.; creating
58 the Florida Child Care Fund for a specified purpose;
59 requiring a Department of Education direct-support
60 organization to administer the fund; requiring funds
61 to be deposited into the Early Learning Fund;
62 requiring legislative appropriations from the Child
63 Care and Development Block Grant Trust Fund to be
64 deposited into the Early Learning Fund; requiring that
65 funds from state sources and interest earnings be
66 accounted for separately; specifying uses for such
67 funds; beginning on a specified date, requiring the
68 Division of Early Learning to prepare, and the
69 Department of Education to publish on its website, an



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70 annual report on the performance of the fund;
71 specifying requirements for the reports; amending s.
72 1002.95, F.S.; requiring