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1  
2 An act relating to child care and early learning  
3 services; amending s. 402.306, F.S.; revising the  
4 information on child care required to be disseminated  
5 electronically to the community; amending ss. 402.313  
6 and 402.3131, F.S.; deleting the requirement that  
7 family child care homes and large family child care  
8 homes, respectively, provide specified information to  
9 parents each year; conforming provisions to changes  
10 made by the act; amending s. 402.316, F.S.; requiring  
11 that certain child care facilities exempt from  
12 licensure requirements meet certain minimum  
13 requirements; providing that failure to meet such  
14 minimum requirements results in the loss of the  
15 exemption from licensure; requiring a child care  
16 facility exempt from licensure requirements to include  
17 a specified statement on its website and in its  
18 promotional materials and facility-created documents  
19 and forms provided to families served by the child  
20 care facility; amending s. 627.70161, F.S.; changing  
21 the term "family day care home" to "family child care  
22 home"; providing legislative findings and intent  
23 relating to large family child care homes; defining  
24 the term "large family child care home"; prohibiting  
25 residential property insurance policies from providing  
26 coverage for liability for claims arising out of, or  
27 in connection with, the operations of large family  
28 child care homes; providing that insurers are under no  
29 obligation to defend against lawsuits covering such

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30 claims; providing exceptions; prohibiting insurers  
31 from denying, cancelling, or refusing to renew a  
32 policy for residential property insurance on the basis  
33 that the policyholders or applicants operate large  
34 family child care homes; providing exceptions;  
35 amending s. 1001.24, F.S.; revising the definition of  
36 the term "Department of Education direct-support  
37 organization"; creating s. 1002.821, F.S.; creating  
38 the Florida Child Care Fund for a specified purpose;  
39 requiring a Department of Education direct-support  
40 organization to administer the fund; requiring funds  
41 to be deposited into the Early Learning Fund;  
42 requiring legislative appropriations from the Child  
43 Care and Development Block Grant Trust Fund to be  
44 deposited into the Early Learning Fund; requiring that  
45 funds from state sources and interest earnings be  
46 accounted for separately; specifying uses for such  
47 funds; beginning on a specified date, requiring the  
48 Division of Early Learning to prepare, and the  
49 Department of Education to publish on its website, an  
50 annual report on the performance of the fund;  
51 specifying requirements for the reports; amending s.  
52 1002.95, F.S.; requiring the administrator of the  
53 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps Scholarship  
54 Program, subject to an appropriation, to establish and  
55 administer the Center for Early Childhood Professional  
56 Recognition for a specified purpose; amending ss.  
57 39.202, 125.0109, 166.0445, 212.08, 402.302, 402.305,  
58 402.309, 402.310, 402.3115, 402.312, 402.315, 402.318,

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59 402.319, 409.988, 411.203, 1002.55, 1002.82, 1002.83,  
60 1002.84, 1002.88, 1002.895, 1002.92, 1002.93, and  
61 1002.945, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made  
62 by the act; providing an effective date.  
63

64 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
65

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

68 402.306 Designation of licensing agency; dissemination by  
69 the department and local licensing agency of information on  
70 child care.—

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

87 Section 2. Section 402.313, Florida Statutes, is amended to

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88 read:

89 402.313 Family child ~~day~~ care homes.—

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

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

98 1. The name and address of the home.

99 2. The name of the operator.

100 3. The number of children served.

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

105 5. Proof of screening and background checks.

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

109 a. State and local rules and regulations that govern child  
110 care.

111 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

112 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

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

116 e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using

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117 a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to  
118 determine a child's developmental level.

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

123 7. Proof that immunization records are kept current.

124 8. Proof of completion of the required continuing education  
125 units or clock hours.

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

128 (c) The department may provide technical assistance to  
129 counties and family child day care home providers to enable  
130 counties and family child day care providers to achieve  
131 compliance with family child day care homes standards.

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

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

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

150 (5) In order to further develop their child care skills  
151 and, if appropriate, their administrative skills, operators of  
152 family child ~~day~~ care homes shall be required to complete an  
153 additional 1 continuing education unit of approved training or  
154 10 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the  
155 department, annually.

156 (6) Operators of family child ~~day~~ care homes shall be  
157 required to complete 0.5 continuing education unit of approved  
158 training in early literacy and language development of children  
159 from birth to 5 years of age one time. The year that this  
160 training is completed, it shall fulfill the 0.5 continuing  
161 education unit or 5 clock hours of the annual training required  
162 in subsection (5).

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

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

173 (9) The department shall prepare a brochure on family child  
174 ~~day~~ care for distribution by the department and by local

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175 licensing agencies, if appropriate, to family child ~~day~~ care  
176 homes for distribution to parents utilizing such child care, and  
177 to all interested persons, including physicians and other health  
178 professionals; mental health professionals; school teachers or  
179 other school personnel; social workers or other professional  
180 child care, foster care, residential, or institutional workers;  
181 and law enforcement officers. The brochure shall, at a minimum,  
182 contain the following information:

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

186 (b) A listing of those counties that require licensure of  
187 family child ~~day~~ care homes. Such counties shall provide an  
188 addendum to the brochure that provides a brief description of  
189 the licensure requirements or may provide a brochure in lieu of  
190 the one described in this subsection, provided it contains all  
191 the required information on licensure and the required  
192 information in the subsequent paragraphs.

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

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

203 (e) Any other information relating to competent child care

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204 that the department or local licensing agency, if preparing a  
205 separate brochure, deems would be helpful to parents and other  
206 caretakers in their selection of a family child ~~day~~ care home.

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

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

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

216 (c) The number of complaints received concerning family  
217 child ~~day~~ care, the nature of the complaints, and the resolution  
218 of such complaints.

219 (d) The training activities utilized by child care  
220 personnel in family child ~~day~~ care homes for meeting the state  
221 or local training requirements.

222  
223 The evaluation shall be utilized by the department in any  
224 administrative modifications or adjustments to be made in the  
225 registration of family child ~~day~~ care homes or in any  
226 legislative requests for modifications to the system of  
227 registration or to other requirements for family child ~~day~~ care  
228 homes.

229 (11) In order to inform the public of the state requirement  
230 for registration of family child ~~day~~ care homes as well as the  
231 other requirements for such homes to legally operate in the  
232 state, the department shall institute a media campaign to

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233 accomplish this end. Such a campaign shall include, at a  
234 minimum, flyers, newspaper advertisements, radio advertisements,  
235 and television advertisements.

236 (12) Notwithstanding any other state or local law or  
237 ordinance, any family child ~~day~~ care home licensed pursuant to  
238 this chapter or pursuant to a county ordinance shall be charged  
239 the utility rates accorded to a residential home. A licensed  
240 family child ~~day~~ care home may not be charged commercial utility  
241 rates.

242 (13) The department shall, by rule, establish minimum  
243 standards for family child ~~day~~ care homes that are required to  
244 be licensed by county licensing ordinance or county licensing  
245 resolution or that voluntarily choose to be licensed. The  
246 standards should include requirements for staffing, training,  
247 maintenance of immunization records, minimum health and safety  
248 standards, reduced standards for the regulation of child care  
249 during evening hours by municipalities and counties, and  
250 enforcement of standards.

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

259 ~~(15) During the months of April and September of each year,~~  
260 ~~at a minimum, each family day care home shall provide parents of~~  
261 ~~children attending the family day care home information~~

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262 ~~regarding the potential for a distracted adult to fail to drop~~  
263 ~~off a child at the family day care home and instead leave the~~  
264 ~~child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at the adult's~~  
265 ~~destination. The family day care home shall also give parents~~  
266 ~~information about resources with suggestions to avoid this~~  
267 ~~occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer or brochure~~  
268 ~~with this information that shall be posted to the department's~~  
269 ~~website, which family day care homes may choose to reproduce and~~  
270 ~~provide to parents to satisfy the requirements of this~~  
271 ~~subsection.~~

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

274 402.3131 Large family child care homes.—

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

283 ~~(10) During the months of April and September of each year,~~  
284 ~~at a minimum, each large family child care home shall provide~~  
285 ~~parents of children attending the large family child care home~~  
286 ~~information regarding the potential for a distracted adult to~~  
287 ~~fail to drop off a child at the large family child care home and~~  
288 ~~instead leave the child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at~~  
289 ~~the adult's destination. The large family child care home shall~~  
290 ~~also give parents information about resources with suggestions~~

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291 ~~to avoid this occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer~~  
292 ~~or brochure with this information that shall be posted to the~~  
293 ~~department's website, which large family child care homes may~~  
294 ~~choose to reproduce and provide to parents to satisfy the~~  
295 ~~requirements of this subsection.~~

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

298 402.316 Exemptions.—

299 (1) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319, except for the  
300 requirements regarding screening of child care personnel  
301 pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055, do not apply to a child  
302 care facility which is an integral part of church or parochial  
303 schools, ~~or a child care facility that solely provides child~~  
304 ~~care to eligible children as defined in s. 402.261(1)(c),~~  
305 conducting regularly scheduled classes, courses of study, or  
306 educational programs accredited by, or by a member of, an  
307 organization that ~~which~~ publishes and requires compliance with  
308 its standards for health, safety, and sanitation. ~~However,~~ Such  
309 facilities must ~~shall~~ meet minimum requirements of the  
310 applicable local governing body as to health, sanitation, and  
311 safety ~~and shall meet the screening requirements pursuant to ss.~~  
312 ~~402.305 and 402.3055.~~ Failure by a facility to comply with ~~such~~  
313 screening requirements pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055  
314 shall result in the loss of the facility's exemption from  
315 licensure.

316 (2) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319, except for the  
317 requirements regarding screening of child care personnel  
318 pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055, do not apply to a child  
319 care facility that solely provides child care to eligible

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320 children as defined in s. 402.261(1)(c). Such facilities must  
321 meet minimum requirements of the applicable local governing body  
322 as to health, sanitation, and safety. Failure by a facility to  
323 comply with screening requirements pursuant to ss. 402.305 and  
324 402.3055 shall result in the loss of the facility's exemption  
325 from licensure.

326 (3)~~(2)~~ The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319 do not apply  
327 to a child care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home if the  
328 child care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home has a  
329 certificate issued by the United States Department of Defense or  
330 by the United States Coast Guard to provide child care and has  
331 completed background screening by the United States Department  
332 of Defense pursuant to 34 U.S.C. s. 20351 and 32 C.F.R. part 86  
333 and received a favorable suitability and fitness determination.  
334 If the child care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home elects  
335 to serve children ineligible for care under the United States  
336 Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02, the child care  
337 facility or family child ~~day~~ care home must be licensed under  
338 this chapter.

339 (4)~~(3)~~ Any child care facility covered by the exemption  
340 under subsection (1) or subsection (2) which desires to be  
341 licensed may submit an application to the department or local  
342 licensing agency pursuant to s. 402.308(4).

343 (5)~~(4)~~ The department and the local licensing agency  
344 pursuant to s. 402.308(4) shall adopt rules to administer and  
345 implement this section, including, but not limited to, any  
346 assessments of previous licensure history.

347 (6) A child care facility exempt under subsection (1) or  
348 subsection (2) must include, at a minimum, the following

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349 statement on its website, in its promotional materials, and on  
350 its facility-created documents and forms provided to families  
351 served by the child care facility: "(Child care facility name)  
352 is a child care facility operating under an exemption pursuant  
353 to the laws of the State of Florida and is not subject to  
354 licensure or regulation by the Department of Children and  
355 Families."

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

358 627.70161 Family child day care and large family child care  
359 insurance.-

360 (1) PURPOSE AND INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that  
361 family child day care and large family child care homes fulfill  
362 a vital role in providing child care in Florida. It is the  
363 intent of the Legislature that residential property insurance  
364 coverage should not be canceled, denied, or nonrenewed solely on  
365 the basis of the child family day care services at the  
366 residence. The Legislature also recognizes that the potential  
367 liability of residential property insurers is substantially  
368 increased by the rendition of child care services on the  
369 premises. The Legislature therefore finds that there is a public  
370 need to specify that contractual liabilities that arise in  
371 connection with the operation of the family child day care home  
372 or the large family child care home are excluded from  
373 residential property insurance policies unless they are  
374 specifically included in such coverage.

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

376 (a) "Child care" means the care, protection, and  
377 supervision of a child, for a period of less than 24 hours a day

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378 on a regular basis, which supplements parental care, enrichment,  
379 and health supervision for the child, in accordance with his or  
380 her individual needs, and for which a payment, fee, or grant is  
381 made for care.

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

387 (c) "Large family child care home" means an occupied  
388 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children  
389 from at least two unrelated families; which receives a payment,  
390 fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or  
391 not operated for profit; and which has at least two full-time  
392 child care personnel on the premises during the hours of  
393 operation. One of the two full-time child care personnel must be  
394 the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child  
395 care home must first have operated as a licensed family child  
396 care home for at least 2 years, with an operator who has held a  
397 child development associate credential or its equivalent for at  
398 least 1 year, before seeking licensure as a large family child  
399 care home. Household children under 13 years of age, when on the  
400 premises of the large family child care home or on a field trip  
401 with children enrolled in child care, must be included in the  
402 overall capacity of the licensed home. A large family child care  
403 home may provide care for one of the following groups of  
404 children, which must include household children under 13 years  
405 of age:

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

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

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

416           (a) Specifically covered in a policy; or

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

419           (4) DENIAL, CANCELLATION, REFUSAL TO RENEW PROHIBITED.—An  
420 insurer may not deny, cancel, or refuse to renew a policy for  
421 residential property insurance solely on the basis that the  
422 policyholder or applicant operates a family child day care home  
423 or a large family child care home. In addition to other lawful  
424 reasons for refusing to insure, an insurer may deny, cancel, or  
425 refuse to renew a policy of a family child day care home or  
426 large family child care home provider if one or more of the  
427 following conditions occur:

428           (a) The policyholder or applicant provides care for more  
429 children than authorized ~~for family day care homes~~ by s.  
430 402.302;

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

435           (c) The policyholder or applicant fails to comply with the

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436 applicable ~~family day care home~~ licensure and registration  
437 requirements specified in chapter 402 ~~s. 402.313~~; or

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

444 Section 6. Section 1001.24, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
445 read:

446 1001.24 Direct-support organization; use of property; board  
447 of directors; audit.—

448 (1) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section, the  
449 term:

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

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

455 2. That is organized and operated exclusively to receive,  
456 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures  
457 to or for the benefit of early learning programs for children  
458 from birth to 5 years of age and public prekindergarten through  
459 12th grade education in this state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

483 (4) ANNUAL AUDIT.—Each direct-support organization shall  
484 provide for an annual financial audit in accordance with s.  
485 215.981. The identity of donors who desire to remain anonymous  
486 shall be protected, and that anonymity shall be maintained in  
487 the auditor's report. All records of the organization other than  
488 the auditor's report, management letter, and any supplemental  
489 data requested by the Auditor General and the Office of Program  
490 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall be  
491 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

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

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494 1002.821 Florida Child Care Fund.—The Florida Child Care  
495 Fund is established to support early learning and child care  
496 needs of Florida families.

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

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

502 (b) Any legislative appropriation from the Child Care and  
503 Development Block Grant Trust Fund which may be provided to the  
504 Florida Child Care Fund shall be deposited into the Early  
505 Learning Fund and shall be used to fund children from the  
506 waiting list under subparagraph (3) (a)1.

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

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

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

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

514 2. The intentions of a donor.

515 (b) The early learning coalition shall fund school  
516 readiness program providers and providers selected by the  
517 donor's recipient at the reimbursement rate calculated pursuant  
518 to s. 1002.84(17). If the provider selected by the donor's  
519 recipient is not a school readiness program provider, the  
520 department shall adopt a contract for use by an early learning  
521 coalition with the provider to provide such funds.

522 (c) Any family served under subparagraph (a)1. shall have

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523 an early learning coalition apply a parent copayment based on  
524 family income pursuant to s. 1002.84(9) or s. 1002.935(2)(b).

525 (4) Beginning January 1, 2027, and each January 1  
526 thereafter, the Division of Early Learning shall prepare, and  
527 the department shall publish on its website, a report that  
528 summarizes the performance of the Florida Child Care Fund and  
529 the fund's fundraising activities for the previous fiscal year,  
530 and identifies the child care needs supported by the fund  
531 principal or earnings and those supported by private sources,  
532 bequests, gifts, grants, and donations. The report must also  
533 include:

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

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

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

542 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)  
543 Scholarship Program.—

544 (2) Subject to an appropriation, the TEACH Scholarship  
545 Program administrator shall also establish and administer the  
546 Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition to ensure  
547 alignment of training statewide, including, but not limited to,  
548 a system of training approval, a system of trainer approval, and  
549 implementation of competency-based assessments aligned to the  
550 early learning professional development standards and career  
551 pathways under s. 1002.995.

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552 Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
553 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

554 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of  
555 child abuse or neglect; exception.—

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

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

- 566 1. Child or adult protective investigations;
- 567 2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;
- 568 3. Early intervention and prevention services;
- 569 4. Healthy Start services;
- 570 5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes,  
571 child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapters 393  
572 and 394, family child ~~day~~ care homes, providers who receive  
573 school readiness funding under part VI of chapter 1002, or other  
574 homes used to provide for the care and welfare of children;
- 575 6. Employment screening for caregivers in residential group  
576 homes and facilities licensed under chapters 393, 394, and 409;  
577 or
- 578 7. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided  
579 by certified domestic violence centers working at the  
580 department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.

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581

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

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

587 125.0109 Family child ~~day~~ care homes; local zoning  
588 regulation.—The operation of a residence as a family child ~~day~~  
589 care home, as defined by law, registered or licensed with the  
590 Department of Children and Families shall constitute a valid  
591 residential use for purposes of any local zoning regulations,  
592 and no such regulation shall require the owner or operator of  
593 such family child ~~day~~ care home to obtain any special exemption  
594 or use permit or waiver, or to pay any special fee in excess of  
595 \$50, to operate in an area zoned for residential use.

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

598 166.0445 Family child ~~day~~ care homes; local zoning  
599 regulation.—The operation of a residence as a family child ~~day~~  
600 care home, as defined by law, registered or licensed with the  
601 Department of Children and Families shall constitute a valid  
602 residential use for purposes of any local zoning regulations,  
603 and no such regulation shall require the owner or operator of  
604 such family child ~~day~~ care home to obtain any special exemption  
605 or use permit or waiver, or to pay any special fee in excess of  
606 \$50, to operate in an area zoned for residential use.

607 Section 12. Paragraph (j) of subsection (7) of section  
608 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

609 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and

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

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

633 (j) *Household fuels*.—Also exempt from payment of the tax  
634 imposed by this chapter are sales of utilities to residential  
635 households or owners of residential models in this state by  
636 utility companies who pay the gross receipts tax imposed under  
637 s. 203.01, and sales of fuel to residential households or owners  
638 of residential models, including oil, kerosene, liquefied

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639 petroleum gas, coal, wood, and other fuel products used in the  
640 household or residential model for the purposes of heating,  
641 cooking, lighting, and refrigeration, regardless of whether such  
642 sales of utilities and fuels are separately metered and billed  
643 direct to the residents or are metered and billed to the  
644 landlord. If any part of the utility or fuel is used for a  
645 nonexempt purpose, the entire sale is taxable. The landlord  
646 shall provide a separate meter for nonexempt utility or fuel  
647 consumption. For the purposes of this paragraph, licensed family  
648 child day care homes shall also be exempt.

649 Section 13. Subsections (3), (8), (9), and (11) of section  
650 402.302, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

651 402.302 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

652 (3) "Child care personnel" means all owners, operators,  
653 employees, and volunteers working in a child care facility. The  
654 term does not include persons who work in a child care facility  
655 after hours when children are not present or parents of children  
656 in a child care facility. For purposes of screening, the term  
657 includes any member, over the age of 12 years, of a child care  
658 facility operator's family, or person, over the age of 12 years,  
659 residing with a child care facility operator if the child care  
660 facility is located in or adjacent to the home of the operator  
661 or if the family member of, or person residing with, the child  
662 care facility operator has any direct contact with the children  
663 in the facility during its hours of operation. Members of the  
664 operator's family or persons residing with the operator who are  
665 between the ages of 12 years and 18 years are not required to be  
666 fingerprinted but must be screened for delinquency records. For  
667 purposes of screening, the term also includes persons who work

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668 in child care programs that provide care for children 15 hours  
669 or more each week in public or nonpublic schools, family child  
670 ~~day~~ care homes, membership organizations under s. 402.301, or  
671 programs otherwise exempted under s. 402.316. The term does not  
672 include public or nonpublic school personnel who are providing  
673 care during regular school hours, or after hours for activities  
674 related to a school's program for grades kindergarten through  
675 12. A volunteer who assists on an intermittent basis for less  
676 than 10 hours per month is not included in the term "personnel"  
677 for the purposes of screening and training if a person who meets  
678 the screening requirement of s. 402.305(2) is always present and  
679 has the volunteer in his or her line of sight. Students who  
680 observe and participate in a child care facility as a part of  
681 their required coursework are not considered child care  
682 personnel, provided such observation and participation are on an  
683 intermittent basis and a person who meets the screening  
684 requirement of s. 402.305(2) is always present and has the  
685 student in his or her line of sight.

686 (8) "Family child ~~day~~ care home" means an occupied  
687 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children  
688 from at least two unrelated families and which receives a  
689 payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care,  
690 whether or not operated for profit. Household children under 13  
691 years of age, when on the premises of the family child ~~day~~ care  
692 home or on a field trip with children enrolled in child care,  
693 shall be included in the overall capacity of the licensed home.  
694 A family child ~~day~~ care home shall be allowed to provide care  
695 for one of the following groups of children, which shall include  
696 household children under 13 years of age:

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

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

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

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

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

715 (11) "Large family child care home" means an occupied  
716 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children  
717 from at least two unrelated families, which receives a payment,  
718 fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or  
719 not operated for profit, and which has at least two full-time  
720 child care personnel on the premises during the hours of  
721 operation. One of the two full-time child care personnel must be  
722 the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child  
723 care home must first have operated as a licensed family child  
724 ~~day~~ care home for 2 years, with an operator who has had a child  
725 development associate credential or its equivalent for 1 year,

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726 before seeking licensure as a large family child care home.  
727 Household children under 13 years of age, when on the premises  
728 of the large family child care home or on a field trip with  
729 children enrolled in child care, shall be included in the  
730 overall capacity of the licensed home. A large family child care  
731 home shall be allowed to provide care for one of the following  
732 groups of children, which shall include household children under  
733 13 years of age:

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

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

737 Section 14. Paragraph (a) of subsection (17) of section  
738 402.305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

739 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

740 (17) TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP.—

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

745 Section 15. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section  
746 402.309, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

747 402.309 Provisional license or registration.—

748 (1) The local licensing agency or the department, whichever  
749 is authorized to license child care facilities in a county, may  
750 issue a provisional license for child care facilities, family  
751 child ~~day~~ care homes, or large family child care homes, or a  
752 provisional registration for family child ~~day~~ care homes to  
753 applicants for an initial license or registration or to  
754 licensees or registrants seeking a renewal who are unable to

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755 meet all the standards provided for in ss. 402.301-402.319.

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

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

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

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

775 (c) Provides evidence that he or she has completed, within  
776 the previous 6 months, training pursuant to United States  
777 Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02 and background  
778 screening by the United States Department of Defense pursuant to  
779 34 U.S.C. s. 20351 and 32 C.F.R. part 86 and received a  
780 favorable suitability and fitness determination.

781 Section 16. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) and subsection  
782 (4) of section 402.310, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

783 402.310 Disciplinary actions; hearings upon denial,

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784 suspension, or revocation of license or registration;  
785 administrative fines.—

786 (1)

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

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

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

800 402.3115 Elimination of duplicative and unnecessary  
801 inspections; abbreviated inspections.—

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

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

812 1. Have been licensed for at least 2 consecutive years.

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813           2. Have not had a Class 1 deficiency, as defined by rule,  
814 for at least 2 consecutive years.

815           3. Have not had more than three of the same Class 2  
816 deficiencies, as defined by rule, for at least 2 consecutive  
817 years.

818           4. Have received at least two full onsite renewal  
819 inspections in the most recent 2 years.

820           5. Do not have any current uncorrected violations.

821           6. Do not have any open regulatory complaints or active  
822 child protective services investigations.

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

825           402.312 License required; injunctive relief.—

826           (1) The operation of a child care facility without a  
827 license, a family child ~~day~~ care home without a license or  
828 registration, or a large family child care home without a  
829 license is prohibited. If the department or the local licensing  
830 agency discovers that a child care facility is being operated  
831 without a license, a family child ~~day~~ care home is being  
832 operated without a license or registration, or a large family  
833 child care home is being operated without a license, the  
834 department or local licensing agency is authorized to seek an  
835 injunction in the circuit court where the facility is located to  
836 enjoin continued operation of such facility, family child ~~day~~  
837 care home, or large family child care home. When the court is  
838 closed for the transaction of judicial business, the department  
839 or local licensing agency is authorized to seek an emergency  
840 injunction to enjoin continued operation of such unlicensed  
841 facility, unregistered or unlicensed family child ~~day~~ care home,

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842 or unlicensed large family child care home, which injunction  
843 shall be continued, modified, or revoked on the next day of  
844 judicial business.

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

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

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

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

858 (3) The department or local licensing agency may impose an  
859 administrative fine on any child care facility, family child ~~day~~  
860 care home, or large family child care home operating without a  
861 license or registration, consistent with ~~the provisions of s.~~  
862 402.310.

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

865 402.315 Funding; license fees.—

866 (3) The department shall collect a fee for any license it  
867 issues for a child care facility, family child ~~day~~ care home, or  
868 large family child care home pursuant to ss. 402.305, 402.313,  
869 and 402.3131.

870 (a) For a child care facility licensed pursuant to s.

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871 402.305, such fee shall be \$1 per child, based on the licensed  
872 capacity of the facility, except that the minimum fee shall be  
873 \$25 per facility and the maximum fee shall be \$100 per facility.

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

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

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

880 Section 20. Section 402.318, Florida Statutes, is amended  
881 to read:

882 402.318 Advertisement.—A person, as defined in s. 1.01(3),  
883 may not advertise a child care facility, family child ~~day~~ care  
884 home, or large family child care home without including within  
885 such advertisement the state or local agency license number or  
886 registration number of such facility or home. Violation of this  
887 section is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as  
888 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

889 Section 21. Section 402.319, Florida Statutes, is amended  
890 to read:

891 402.319 Penalties.—

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

895 (a) Fail, by false statement, misrepresentation,  
896 impersonation, or other fraudulent means, to disclose in any  
897 application for voluntary or paid employment or licensure  
898 regulated under ss. 402.301-402.318 all information required  
899 under those sections or a material fact used in making a

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900 determination as to such person's qualifications to be child  
901 care personnel, as defined in s. 402.302, in a child care  
902 facility, family child ~~day~~ care home, or other child care  
903 program.

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

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

909 (d) Operate or attempt to operate a child care facility or  
910 family child ~~day~~ care home under a license that is suspended,  
911 revoked, or terminated.

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

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

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

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

926 3. The qualifications or credentials of child care  
927 personnel;

928 4. Whether a family child ~~day~~ care home or child care

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929 facility complies with the screening requirements of s. 402.305;  
930 or

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

933 (2) If any child care personnel makes any misrepresentation  
934 in violation of this section to a parent or guardian who has  
935 placed a child in the child care facility or family child ~~day~~  
936 care home, and the parent or guardian relied upon the  
937 misrepresentation, and the child suffers great bodily harm,  
938 permanent disfigurement, permanent disability, or death as a  
939 result of an intentional act or negligence by the child care  
940 personnel, then the child care personnel commits a felony of the  
941 second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083,  
942 or s. 775.084.

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

946 Section 22. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
947 409.988, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

948 409.988 Community-based care lead agency duties; general  
949 provisions.—

950 (2) LICENSURE.—

951 (c) Substitute care providers who are licensed under s.  
952 409.175 and who have contracted with a lead agency are also  
953 authorized to provide registered or licensed family child ~~day~~  
954 care under s. 402.313 if such care is consistent with federal  
955 law and if the home has met the requirements of s. 402.313.

956 Section 23. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section  
957 411.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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958 411.203 Continuum of comprehensive services.—The Department  
959 of Education and the Department of Health shall utilize the  
960 continuum of prevention and early assistance services for high-  
961 risk pregnant women and for high-risk and handicapped children  
962 and their families, as outlined in this section, as a basis for  
963 the intraagency and interagency program coordination,  
964 monitoring, and analysis required in this chapter. The continuum  
965 shall be the guide for the comprehensive statewide approach for  
966 services for high-risk pregnant women and for high-risk and  
967 handicapped children and their families, and may be expanded or  
968 reduced as necessary for the enhancement of those services.  
969 Expansion or reduction of the continuum shall be determined by  
970 intraagency or interagency findings and agreement, whichever is  
971 applicable. Implementation of the continuum shall be based upon  
972 applicable eligibility criteria, availability of resources, and  
973 interagency prioritization when programs impact both agencies,  
974 or upon single agency prioritization when programs impact only  
975 one agency. The continuum shall include, but not be limited to:

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

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

982 Section 24. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
983 1002.55, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

984 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
985 private prekindergarten providers.—

986 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,

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987 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the  
988 following requirements:

989 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child  
990 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family child ~~day~~ care  
991 home licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home  
992 licensed under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from  
993 licensure under s. 402.3025(2), faith-based child care provider  
994 exempt from licensure under s. 402.316, child development  
995 program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and  
996 operates on a military installation that is certified by the  
997 United States Department of Defense, or private prekindergarten  
998 provider that has been issued a provisional license under s.  
999 402.309. A private prekindergarten provider may not deliver the  
1000 program while holding a probation-status license under s.  
1001 402.310.

1002 Section 25. Paragraph (u) of subsection (2) of section  
1003 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004 1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

1005 (2) The department shall:

1006 (u) Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to provide  
1007 assistance and consultation to child care facilities and family  
1008 child ~~day~~ care homes regarding health, developmental,  
1009 disability, and special needs issues of the children they are  
1010 serving, particularly children with disabilities and other  
1011 special needs. The department shall:

1012 1. Annually inform child care facilities and family child  
1013 ~~day~~ care homes of the availability of this service through the  
1014 child care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

1015 2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line to

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1016 maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning coalition  
1017 service area.

1018 Section 26. Paragraph (j) of subsection (4) of section  
1019 1002.83, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1020 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

1021 (4) Each early learning coalition must include the  
1022 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,  
1023 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple  
1024 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be  
1025 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has  
1026 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of  
1027 such members may serve as a voting member:

1028 (j) A representative of private for-profit child care  
1029 providers, including private for-profit family child ~~day~~ care  
1030 homes.

1031 Section 27. Subsection (4) of section 1002.84, Florida  
1032 Statutes, is amended to read:

1033 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers  
1034 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

1035 (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the  
1036 department pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u). Regional Warm-Line  
1037 staff shall provide onsite technical assistance, when requested,  
1038 to assist child care facilities and family child ~~day~~ care homes  
1039 with inquiries relating to the strategies, curriculum, and  
1040 environmental adaptations the child care facilities and family  
1041 child ~~day~~ care homes may need as they serve children with  
1042 disabilities and other special needs.

1043 Section 28. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1) of  
1044 section 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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1045 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards;  
1046 eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

1047 (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness program,  
1048 a school readiness program provider must:

1049 (a) Be a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, a  
1050 family child ~~day~~ care home licensed or registered under s.  
1051 402.313, a large family child care home licensed under s.  
1052 402.3131, a public school or nonpublic school exempt from  
1053 licensure under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care provider  
1054 exempt from licensure under s. 402.316, a before-school or  
1055 after-school program described in s. 402.305(1)(c), a child  
1056 development program that is accredited by a national accrediting  
1057 body and operates on a military installation that is certified  
1058 by the United States Department of Defense, an informal child  
1059 care provider to the extent authorized in the state's Child Care  
1060 and Development Fund Plan as approved by the United States  
1061 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s.  
1062 98.18, or a provider who has been issued a provisional license  
1063 pursuant to s. 402.309. A provider may not deliver the program  
1064 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

1065 (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and  
1066 facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate  
1067 immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness  
1068 program.

1069 1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s.  
1070 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as  
1071 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

1072 2. For a provider that is a registered family child ~~day~~  
1073 care home or is not subject to licensure or registration by the

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1074 Department of Children and Families, compliance with this  
1075 subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this  
1076 requirement. Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the  
1077 provider shall annually post the health and safety checklist  
1078 adopted by the department prominently on its premises in plain  
1079 sight for visitors and parents and shall annually submit the  
1080 checklist to its local early learning coalition.

1081 3. For a child development program that is accredited by a  
1082 national accrediting body and operates on a military  
1083 installation that is certified by the United States Department  
1084 of Defense, the submission and verification of annual  
1085 inspections pursuant to United States Department of Defense  
1086 Instructions 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

1087 Section 29. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
1088 1002.895, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1089 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness program  
1090 market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

1091 (2) The market rate schedule must differentiate rates by  
1092 provider type, including, but not limited to:

1093 (c) Family child ~~day~~ care homes licensed or registered  
1094 under s. 402.313.

1095 Section 30. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and subsection  
1096 (4) of section 1002.92, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1097 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and  
1098 referral.—

1099 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall provide  
1100 the following services:

1101 (a) Identification of existing public and private child  
1102 care and early childhood education services, including child

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1103 care services by public and private employers, and the  
1104 development of an early learning provider performance profile of  
1105 those services through the single statewide information system  
1106 developed by the department under s. 1002.82(2)(q). These  
1107 services may include family child ~~day~~ care, public and private  
1108 child care programs, the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education  
1109 Program, Head Start, the school readiness program, special  
1110 education programs for prekindergarten children with  
1111 disabilities, services for children with developmental  
1112 disabilities, full-time and part-time programs, before-school  
1113 and after-school programs, and vacation care programs. The early  
1114 learning provider performance profile shall include, but not be  
1115 limited to:

- 1116 1. Type of program.
- 1117 2. Hours of service.
- 1118 3. Ages of children served.
- 1119 4. Number of children served.
- 1120 5. Program information.
- 1121 6. Fees and eligibility for services.
- 1122 7. Availability of transportation.
- 1123 8. Participation in the Child Care Food Program, if  
1124 applicable.
- 1125 9. A link to licensing inspection reports, if applicable.
- 1126 10. The components of the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
1127 Education Program performance metric calculated under s. 1002.68  
1128 which must consist of the program assessment composite score,  
1129 learning gains score, achievement score, and its designations,  
1130 if applicable.
- 1131 11. The school readiness program assessment composite score

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1132 and program assessment care level composite score results  
1133 delineated by infant classrooms, toddler classrooms, and  
1134 preschool classrooms results under s. 1002.82, if applicable.

1135 12. Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945,  
1136 if applicable.

1137 13. Indication of whether the provider implements a  
1138 curriculum approved by the department and the name of the  
1139 curriculum, if applicable.

1140 14. Participation in school readiness child assessment  
1141 under s. 1002.82.

1142 (4) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 and  
1143 licensed and registered family child ~~day~~ care homes must provide  
1144 the statewide child care and resource and referral network with  
1145 the following information annually:

1146 (a) Type of program.

1147 (b) Hours of service.

1148 (c) Ages of children served.

1149 (d) Fees and eligibility for services.

1150 Section 31. Subsection (2) of section 1002.93, Florida  
1151 Statutes, is amended to read:

1152 1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.—

1153 (2) The transportation servicers may only provide  
1154 transportation to each child participating in the school  
1155 readiness program to the extent that such transportation is  
1156 necessary to provide child care opportunities that otherwise  
1157 would not be available to a child whose home is more than a  
1158 reasonable walking distance from the nearest child care facility  
1159 or family child ~~day~~ care home.

1160 Section 32. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1), paragraphs (a)

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1161 and (c) of subsection (3), and subsection (4) of section  
1162 1002.945, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1163 1002.945 Gold Seal Quality Care Program.—

1164 (1)

1165 (b) A child care facility, large family child care home, or  
1166 family child ~~day~~ care home that is accredited by an accrediting  
1167 association approved by the Department of Education under  
1168 subsection (3) and meets all other requirements shall, upon  
1169 application to the department, receive a separate "Gold Seal  
1170 Quality Care" designation.

1171 (3) (a) In order to be approved by the Department of  
1172 Education for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care  
1173 Program, an accrediting association must apply to the department  
1174 and demonstrate that it:

1175 1. Is a recognized accrediting association.

1176 2. Has accrediting standards that substantially meet or  
1177 exceed the Gold Seal Quality Care standards adopted by the state  
1178 board under subsection (2).

1179 3. Is a registered corporation with the Department of  
1180 State.

1181 4. Can provide evidence that the process for accreditation  
1182 has, at a minimum, all of the following components:

1183 a. Clearly defined prerequisites that a child care provider  
1184 must meet before beginning the accreditation process. However,  
1185 accreditation may not be granted to a child care facility, large  
1186 family child ~~day~~ care home, or family child ~~day~~ care home before the  
1187 site is operational and is attended by children.

1188 b. Procedures for completion of a self-study and  
1189 comprehensive onsite verification process for each classroom

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1190 that documents compliance with accrediting standards.

1191 c. A training process for accreditation verifiers to ensure  
1192 inter-rater reliability.

1193 d. Ongoing compliance procedures that include requiring  
1194 each accredited child care facility, large family child care  
1195 home, and family child day care home to file an annual report  
1196 with the accrediting association and risk-based, onsite auditing  
1197 protocols for accredited child care facilities, large family  
1198 child care homes, and family child day care homes.

1199 e. Procedures for the revocation of accreditation due to  
1200 failure to maintain accrediting standards as evidenced by sub-  
1201 subparagraph d. or any other relevant information received by  
1202 the accrediting association.

1203 f. Accreditation renewal procedures that include an onsite  
1204 verification occurring at least every 5 years.

1205 g. A process for verifying continued accreditation  
1206 compliance in the event of a transfer of ownership of  
1207 facilities.

1208 h. A process to communicate issues that arise during the  
1209 accreditation period with governmental entities that have a  
1210 vested interest in the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, including  
1211 the Department of Education, the Department of Children and  
1212 Families, the Department of Health, local licensing entities if  
1213 applicable, and the early learning coalition.

1214 (c) If an accrediting association has granted accreditation  
1215 to a child care facility, large family child care home, or  
1216 family child day care under fraudulent terms or failed to  
1217 conduct onsite verifications, the accrediting association shall  
1218 be liable for the repayment of any rate differentials paid under

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1219 subsection (6).

1220 (4) In order to obtain and maintain a designation as a Gold  
1221 Seal Quality Care provider, a child care facility, large family  
1222 child care home, or family child ~~day~~ care home must meet the  
1223 following additional criteria:

1224 (a) The child care provider must not have had any class I  
1225 violations, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and  
1226 Families, within the 2 years preceding its application for  
1227 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of  
1228 a class I violation shall be grounds for termination of the  
1229 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the  
1230 provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.

1231 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or more  
1232 of the same class II violations, as defined by rule of the  
1233 Department of Children and Families, within the 2 years  
1234 preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality  
1235 Care provider. Commission of three or more of the same class II  
1236 violations within a 2-year period shall be grounds for  
1237 termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care  
1238 provider until the provider has no class II violations that are  
1239 the same for a period of 1 year.

1240 (c) The child care provider must not have been cited for  
1241 the same class III violation, as defined by rule of the  
1242 Department of Children and Families, three or more times and  
1243 failed to correct the violation within 1 year after the date of  
1244 each citation, within the 2 years preceding its application for  
1245 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of  
1246 the same class III violation three or more times and failure to  
1247 correct within the required time during a 2-year period may be

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1248 grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal  
1249 Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III  
1250 violations for a period of 1 year.

1251 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the Department of  
1252 Education determines through a formal process that a provider  
1253 has been in business for at least 5 years and has no other class  
1254 I violations recorded, the department may recommend to the state  
1255 board that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care  
1256 status. The state board's determination regarding such  
1257 provider's status is final.

1258 Section 33. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.