

By Senator Arrington

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to a study on childcare assistance
3 programs; requiring the Office of Program Policy
4 Analysis and Government Accountability, beginning on a
5 specified date, to conduct a study of state public and
6 private employee child care assistance programs for a
7 specified purpose; specifying the scope of the study;
8 requiring the office to consult with specified
9 entities in conducting the study; requiring the office
10 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations
11 to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified
12 date; specifying requirements for the report;
13 providing for expiration; providing an effective date.

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

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17 Section 1. (1) Beginning July 1, 2026, the Office of
18 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA)
19 shall conduct a study of state public and private employee
20 childcare assistance programs to evaluate whether a public
21 employee childcare assistance program should be implemented in
22 this state. The scope of the study must, at a minimum, include
23 consideration of all of the following:

24 (a) Elements and operating procedures of other states'
25 childcare assistance programs.

26 (b) The potential benefits a Florida public employee
27 childcare assistance program would provide to residents of this
28 state and any cost savings it would provide to the state and its
29 workforce.

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30 (c) The potential effects a Florida public employee
31 childcare assistance program would have on the state's school
32 readiness program, childcare workforce, and childcare regulation
33 and licensing.

34 (2) In conducting the study, OPPAGA must consult with the
35 Department of Education's Division of Early Learning overseeing
36 the school readiness program, the Department of Children and
37 Families childcare licensing office, the Florida Chamber of
38 Commerce, and any other entity OPPAGA deems relevant to carry
39 out the objectives of the study.

40 (3) By January 30, 2027, OPPAGA shall submit a report of
41 its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President
42 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
43 The report must include potential options for establishing a
44 Florida public employee childcare assistance program that
45 enhances school readiness, advances the affordability of
46 childcare, and supports the state's workforce, all while
47 containing costs to the state.

48 (4) This section expires October 1, 2027.

49 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.