

By Senator Steube

23-01599A-18

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to school readiness program funding;
3 amending s. 1002.89, F.S.; requiring the Office of
4 Early Learning to develop a formula for the allocation
5 of funding for the school readiness program which
6 meets certain requirements; requiring the office to
7 submit the formula to the Legislature by a specified
8 date; requiring the formula to be implemented by a
9 specified date; requiring the office to review and
10 update the formula within a specified timeframe;
11 authorizing the office to adjust certain allocations
12 for specified purposes; providing an effective date.

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

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16 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 1002.89, Florida
17 Statutes, is amended to read:

18 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

19 (1) Funding for the school readiness program shall be
20 allocated among the early learning coalitions in accordance with
21 a formula developed by the Office of Early Learning.

22 (a) The office shall develop a formula that meets all of
23 the following requirements:

24 1. Is equity-based.

25 2. Considers all of the following:

26 a. The current and future growth of each county;

27 b. The overall demographics of children who are 5 years of
28 age or younger and those who are school-aged in each respective
29 county, with greater weight given to the 5 years of age or

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30 younger category;

31 c. The percentage of mandated referrals;

32 d. The number of eligible children 5 years of age or
33 younger whose households are at or below 150 percent of the
34 federal poverty level;

35 e. The current average market rate being paid by each
36 county or early learning coalition; and

37 f. Other pertinent information as necessary to establish
38 statewide equity.

39 3. Is designed to maximize the enrollment of children 5
40 years of age or younger statewide.

41 (b) By January 31, 2019, the office must submit the funding
42 formula to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
43 House of Representatives for review. The formula must be
44 implemented by July 1, 2020, and must be reviewed and updated as
45 necessary, but at least every 2 years, to ensure ongoing equity.
46 The office may adjust coalition allocations during each fiscal
47 year, as needed, to maximize the enrollment of children 5 years
48 of age or younger and to address funding fluctuations ~~this~~
49 section and the General Appropriations Act.

50 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.