

Tab 3	SB 916 by Calatayud (CO-INTRODUCERS) Perry, Osgood ; (Similar to CS/H 00929) School Readiness Program
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Tab 5	SB 1356 by Calatayud ; (Compare to H 01473) School Safety
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Tab 6	SPB 7038 by ED (CO-INTRODUCERS) Yarborough ; Education
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Tab 2	SB 820 by Grall (CO-INTRODUCERS) Osgood; (Similar to H 00635) Child Care and Early Learning Providers					
830618	A	S	RCS	ED, Grall	btw L.605 - 606:	01/17 12:44 PM
846424	A	S	RCS	ED, Grall	Delete L.724 - 729:	01/17 12:44 PM

Tab 4	SB 1026 by Grall (CO-INTRODUCERS) Osgood; (Identical to H 01353) Early Learning					
493612	A	S	RCS	ED, Grall	Delete L.79 - 80:	01/18 02:57 PM
654458	A	S	RCS	ED, Grall	Delete L.104 - 122:	01/18 02:57 PM
736488	A	S	RCS	ED, Grall	Delete L.275:	01/18 02:57 PM
521898	A	S	RCS	ED, Grall	Delete L.288 - 291:	01/18 02:57 PM

Tab 1	SB 460 by Simon (CO-INTRODUCERS) Perry; (Similar to H 00917) Career and Technical Education					
119860	D	S	RCS	ED, Simon	Delete everything after	01/17 12:43 PM

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

EDUCATION PRE-K -12
Senator Simon, Chair
Senator Burgess, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, January 17, 2024**TIME:** 8:30—10:30 a.m.**PLACE:** Pat Thomas Committee Room, 412 Knott Building**MEMBERS:** Senator Simon, Chair; Senator Burgess, Vice Chair; Senators Berman, Calatayud, Collins, Grall, Hutson, Jones, Osgood, Perry, and Yarborough

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	SB 460 Simon (Similar H 917, Compare H 483, H 553, S 1688, CS/S 7000)	Career and Technical Education; Providing an exemption for minors to work in specified conditions; revising the requirements for an annual career fair to include allowing certain employers to meet with students regarding career and technical education; revising the requirements for certain courses to receive the same rate as honors courses for purposes of student grade point averages; revising the qualifications for specified teachers of career programs, etc. ED 01/17/2024 Fav/CS AED FP	Fav/CS Yeas 9 Nays 2
2	SB 820 Grall (Similar H 635)	Child Care and Early Learning Providers; Providing an exemption for public and private preschools from specified special assessments levied by a municipality; defining the term "preschool"; authorizing the use of credits against certain taxes beginning on a specified date; providing a limitation on such credits; requiring repayment of tax credits under certain conditions and using a specified formula; revising licensing standards for all licensed child care facilities and minimum standards and training requirements for child care personnel, etc. ED 01/17/2024 Fav/CS FT AP	Fav/CS Yeas 11 Nays 0

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

Education Pre-K -12

Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 8:30—10:30 a.m.

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
3	SB 916 Calatayud (Identical H 929)	School Readiness Program; Revising requirements for the sliding fee scale for families receiving school readiness program services to include a new method to calculate parent copayments at the time of eligibility determination and annually thereafter, regardless of the number of children; revising requirements for the data elements that must be collected and reported by the Department of Education; revising the method for determining the annual allocation for the school readiness program; deleting a provision relating to certain expenditures from the Gold Seal Quality Care Program allocation, etc. ED 01/17/2024 Favorable AED FP	Favorable Yeas 11 Nays 0
4	SB 1026 Grall (Identical H 1353)	Early Learning; Revising requirements for prekindergarten instructors; prohibiting private prekindergarten provider and public school curricula from using a coordinated screening and progress monitoring program or other specified methods for direct student instruction; revising the percentage of funds an early learning coalition may retain and expend; providing that certain Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program students are eligible to receive instructional support in early literacy skills through a specified program, etc. ED 01/17/2024 Fav/CS AED FP	Fav/CS Yeas 11 Nays 0
5	SB 1356 Calatayud (Compare H 1473)	School Safety; Authorizing sheriffs to waive certain requirements for school guardian candidates under certain conditions; requiring school principals to ensure that instruction is provided at least annually to students on the use of the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool; requiring superintendents to notify, within a specified timeframe, the chief of police or the public safety director of a postsecondary institution in which a student is dual enrolled if such student commits certain offenses, etc. ED 01/17/2024 Favorable CJ RC	Favorable Yeas 11 Nays 0

Consideration of proposed bill:

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
6	SPB 7038	Education; Revising eligibility requirements for a New Worlds Scholarship Account; requiring each school district and prekindergarten provider to notify the parent of each eligible student of the process to request and receive a scholarship when providing certain screening and progress monitoring results; renaming the New Worlds Reading Initiative as the New Worlds Learning Initiative; expanding the initiative to include improvement in mathematics skills, etc.	Submitted and Reported Favorably as Committee Bill Yeas 11 Nays 0

Other Related Meeting Documents

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

BILL: SB 916

INTRODUCER: Senators Calatayud and Perry

SUBJECT: School Readiness Program

DATE: January 16, 2024

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sabitsch	Bouck	ED	Favorable
2.			AED	
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 916 revises the School Readiness (SR) program concerning eligibility, funding and program plans. Specifically, the bill:

- Modifies the definition of “economically disadvantaged” to use state median income, rather than the federal poverty level when determining program eligibility and for reporting requirements.
- Provides a schedule for copayments for parents whose children attend the SR program based on the state median income.
- Modifies the methodology to determine the distribution of funds to early learning coalitions using the provider cost of care or reimbursement rates established by the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference.
- Requires the principals of the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference to provide reimbursement rates based on specified information, but removes the deadline by which official cost-of-care information must be provided to the legislature.
- Removes certain expenditure provisions related to the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, the Differential Payment Program, and the special needs differential.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.

II. Present Situation:

School Readiness Program

Overview

Florida’s School Readiness (SR) program offers low-income families financial assistance to facilitate access to high-quality child care and early education for their children while parents work or participate in job training. The Division of Early Learning (DEL), under the Department of Education (DOE), administers the program at the state level while early learning coalitions

(ELCs) administer the SR program at the county and regional levels. Funding comes from four sources including, the Child Care and Development Block Grant, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant, the Social Services Block Grant, and the State of Florida.¹

The program's two main goals are to help families become financially self-sufficient and help each child from a qualifying family develop school readiness skills. The program gives children access to a quality early learning environment and supports parents with information about child development and family engagement. The quality environment of each SR provider is measured by the administration of a widely recognized tool that assesses the interactions between adults and children in the classroom.²

In FY 2022-23, there were 209,986 children participating in the SR program at 6,790 early learning providers. Total expenditures were \$954 million, which included \$33 million in administrative expenses, \$55 million in non-direct services expenditures, and \$162 million in quality expenditures.³

School Readiness Definitions

Florida statute defines “economically disadvantaged” as having a family income that does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level and includes being a child of a working migratory family as defined by 34 C.F.R. s. 200.81(d) or (f) or an agricultural worker who is employed by more than one agricultural employer during the course of a year, and whose income varies according to weather conditions and market stability.⁴ The definition is used to determine eligibility for and priority status in the SR program.

School Readiness Funding

Each ELC is required to establish a parent sliding fee scale that provides for a parent copayment that is not a barrier to families receiving SR program services. Coalitions may waive copayments for at-risk children or temporarily waive the copayment children whose family income is at or below the federal poverty level. Coalitions may also waive copayments for a child whose family experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits the parent’s ability to pay including:⁵

- Incarceration;
- Placement in residential treatment;
- Becoming homeless;
- An emergency situation such as a household fire or burglary; or
- While the parent is participating in parenting classes or participating in an Early Head Start program or Head Start Program.

¹ Florida Department of Education, *Division of Early Learning 2022-2023 Annual Report (2023)*, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/20628/urlt/2223-DEL-AnnualReport.pdf>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Section 1002.81(6), F.S.

⁵ Section 1002.84.(9), F.S.

A parent may not transfer SR program services to another school readiness program provider until the parent has submitted documentation from the current provider to the ELC stating that the parent has satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation.⁶

Each ELC is required to distribute the SR program funds as allocated in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) to the eligible providers using the following methodology:⁷

- For each county in the ELC, multiply the cost of care by care level as provided in s. 1002.90 by the county's comparable wage factor provided in the Florida Education Finance Program under s. 1011.62(2).
- If a county enacted a local ordinance before January 1, 2022, that establishes the county's staff-to-children ratio for licensed child care facilities below the ratio established in s. 402.305(4), multiply the provider reimbursement rates for that county by the adjustment factor specified in the GAA.
- Apply the weight established pursuant to s. 1002.90 for each provider type to calculate the minimum provider reimbursement rates by care level.
- Multiply the weighted provider reimbursement rates by 22 percent to determine the amount of the school readiness allocation an ELC is eligible to retain pursuant to s. 1002.89(4).⁸

Each ELC must distribute to each eligible provider the minimum provider reimbursement rate, by provider type and care level, regardless of the provider's private pay rate. All minimum provider reimbursement rates are considered as direct services.⁹ Each ELC with approved minimum provider reimbursement rates for the infant to age 5 care levels that are higher than the minimum provider reimbursement rates established in statute are allowed to continue to implement the previously approved minimum provider reimbursement rates until the rates established by the state exceed the ELC's approved rates.¹⁰ However, since the official cost of care rates have not been established under s. 1002.90, F.S., ELCs have continued to reimburse SR providers at the rates that were approved prior to the 2022 legislation.¹¹

The funding for the SR program is required in accordance with s. 1002.89, F.S. and the GAA. However, if the annual allocation for the SR program is not determined in the GAA or implementing bill, the allocation is required as follows:¹²

- For each county in the ELC, the total SR eligible population, as adopted by the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference pursuant to s. 216.136(8), is to be multiplied by the county's comparable wage factor provided in s. 1011.62(2).
- If a county passed a local ordinance before January 1, 2022, that establishes the county's staff-to-children ratio for licensed child care facilities below the ratio established in s. 402.305(4), multiply the calculated total school readiness eligible population by the adjustment factor specified in the GAA.
- Each county's school readiness allocation will be based on the county's proportionate share of the total adjusted eligible school readiness population.

⁶ Section 1002.84(9), F.S.

⁷ Section 1002.84(17), F.S.

⁸ Section 1002.84(17), F.S.

⁹ Section 1002.89, F.S.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Chapter 2022-154, s. 26, Laws of Fla.

¹² Section 1002.89(1)(a), F.S.

Gold Seal Quality Care Program Allocation.

The Gold Seal Quality Care Program allocation provides eligible SR program providers the established rate differential¹³. Subject to legislative appropriation, all expenditures from the Gold Seal Quality Care Program allocation are required to be used by the DOE to help meet federal targeted requirements for improving quality to the extent allowable in the state's approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan.¹⁴

Differential Payment Program Allocation.

The differential payment program allocation provides eligible SR program providers the differential pay¹⁵ established by the DOE. Subject to legislative appropriation, all expenditures from the differential payment program allocation will be used by the DOE to help meet federal targeted requirements for improving quality to the extent allowable in the state's approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan.¹⁶

Special Needs Differential Allocation.

The special needs differential allocation provides assistance to eligible SR program providers to implement the special needs rate provisions defined in the state's approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan. Subject to legislative appropriation, each early learning coalition will be reimbursed based on actual expenditures. All expenditures from the special needs differential allocation shall be used by the department to help meet federal targeted requirements for improving quality to the extent allowable in the state's approved plan.¹⁷

All state, federal, and local matching funds provided to an ELC are to be used for implementation of its approved SR program plan, including the hiring of staff to effectively operate the SR program.¹⁸

Costs for the SR program must be kept to the minimum necessary for the efficient and effective administration of the SR program with the highest priority of expenditure being direct services for eligible children. No more than 5 percent of the funds allocated in the general appropriations act may be used for administrative costs and no more than 22 percent of the funds allocated may be used in any fiscal year for any combination of administrative costs, quality activities, and nondirect services.¹⁹

¹³ A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 or a child care facility exempt from licensing pursuant to s. 402.316 which achieves Gold Seal Quality status under this section and which participates in the school readiness program shall receive a minimum of a 20 percent rate differential for each enrolled school readiness child by care level and unit of child care. Section 1002.945(6), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 1002.89(1)(b), F.S.

¹⁵ No later than July 1, 2019, the DOE was required to develop a differential payment program based on a program assessment for school readiness program providers that measures the quality of teacher-child interactions, including emotional and behavioral support, engaged support for learning, classroom organization, and instructional support for children ages birth to 5 years.). The differential payment may not exceed a total of 15 percent for each care level and unit of child care for a child care provider. Section 1002.82(2)(o), F.S.

¹⁶ Section 1002.89(1)(c), F.S.

¹⁷ Section 1002.89(1)(d), F.S.

¹⁸ Section 1002.89(3), F.S.

¹⁹ Section 1002.89(4), F.S.

Non-direct services include:²⁰

- Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.54.
- Activities to improve the quality of child care as described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.53, limited to the following:
- Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and coordinating resource and referral programs.
- Awarding grants and providing financial support to school readiness program providers and their staff to assist them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program assessment, child care performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate curricula and related classroom resources that support curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing continued professional development and training.
- Providing training, technical assistance, and financial support to school readiness program providers, staff, and parents on standards, child screenings, child assessments, child development research and best practices, developmentally appropriate curricula, character development, teacher-child interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and safety, nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection, prevention, and reporting.
- Providing adequate funding for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for infant and toddler care.
- Improving the monitoring of compliance with, and enforcement of, applicable state and local requirements as described in and limited by 45 C.F.R. s. 98.40.
- Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and parents, including providing developmental and health screenings to school readiness program children.²¹

Florida statutes limit the use of funds appropriated for the SR program by prohibiting expenditures for the following:²²

- Purchase or improvement of land.
- Purchase, construction, or permanent improvement of any building or facility.
- Purchase of buses.

However, funds may be used for minor remodeling and upgrading of child care facilities which is necessary for the administration of the program and to ensure that providers meet state and local child care standards, including applicable health and safety requirements.²³

Annually, the principals of the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference, established in statute,²⁴ must develop official cost-of-care information based on actual school readiness direct services program expenditures and information provided in the market rates schedule that is required in statute.²⁵ Conference principals are required to agree on the cost of child care by care level and provider type, the provider type weights, and the methods of computation. The DOE is required to provide the conference principals with all requested and necessary data to develop the

²⁰ Section 1002.89(4), F.S.

²¹ *Id.*

²² Section 1002.89(5), F.S.

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ Section 216.136(8), F.S.

²⁵ Section 1002.895, F.S.

cost-of-care information. The Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference is required to provide the official cost-of-care information to the Legislature at least 90 days before the scheduled annual legislative session.²⁶ However the most recent information from the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference is from 2004²⁷ and the cost-of-care calculation has yet to be implemented, so ELCs have continued to reimburse SR providers at established rates.

Early Learning Coalition Plans

The DOE is required to adopt rules regarding the content and format for the ELC SR program plans that are required to be submitted to the DOE biennially for approval prior to expenditure of funds. Each ELC plan is required to include, but is not limited to, the following:²⁸

- The ELC's operations.
- The ELC's procedures for implementing program requirements.
- A detailed description of the ELC's quality activities and services.
- A detailed budget.
- A detailed accounting of all revenues and expenditures during the previous state fiscal year.
- Updated policies and procedures.
- A description of the procedures for monitoring school readiness program providers.
- Documentation that the ELC has solicited and considered comments regarding the proposed school readiness program plan from the local community.
- An assessment of local priorities within the county or multicounty region based on the needs of families and provider capacity using available community data.

The DOE is required to collect and report data on ELC delivery of early learning programs. Elements are required to include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Measures related to progress towards reducing the number of children on the waiting list.
- The percentage of children served by the program as compared to the number of administrative staff and overhead.
- The percentage of children served compared to total number of children under the age of 5 years below 150 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Provider payment processes.
- Fraud intervention.
- Child attendance and stability.
- Use of child care resource and referral (CCR&R).
- Kindergarten readiness outcomes for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK) or the SR program upon entry into kindergarten.

The DOE is required to solicit input from the ELCs and SR program providers before finalizing the format and data to be used. Implementation of the report began in 2014 and is required to be included in the DOE's annual report.²⁹

²⁶ Section 1002.895, F.S.

²⁷ EDR, *Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference, School Readiness*, Nov. 8, 2004, available at <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/schoolreadiness/index.cfm>

²⁸ Section 1002.85(1) and (2), F.S.

²⁹ Section 1002.82(7), F.S.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

School Readiness Definitions

The bill modifies s. 1002.81, F.S., to change the definition of “economically disadvantaged” by deleting the threshold for family income that “does not exceed 150 percent the federal poverty level” and replacing the threshold with “does not exceed 55 percent of the state median income.”

School Readiness Funding

The bill modifies SR program parent copayments, allocation and distribution of funds, and provider reimbursements.

Parent Copayments

The bill modifies s. 1002.84(9), F.S., to, instead of an authorization in law for the early learning coalition (ELC) to establish a sliding fee scale, require the ELC to implement a specified sliding fee schedule for parent copayments for children served in the SR program (fulltime) at the time of eligibility determination and at the annual redetermination. The schedule increases, regardless of the number of children, based on the state median income (SMI) as follows:

- Income at or below 60 percent of SMI, the copayment is 7 percent of income.
- Income above 60 percent but not more than 65 percent of SMI, the copayment is 9 percent of income.
- Income above 65 percent but not more than 75 percent of SMI, the copayment is 11 percent of income.
- Income above 75 percent but not more than 80 percent of SMI, the copayment is 13 percent of income.
- Income above 80 percent but not more than 85 percent of SMI, the copayment is 15 percent of income.

The copayment for a parent whose child is receiving part-time care in the SR program is 50 percent of the amount calculated in the schedule for fulltime care.

The effect of these changes is not clear. Income under the federal poverty level is calculated based on family size, while in the bill the SMI is calculated for an individual income regardless of family size. Also, it is not clear what affect this would have on individual families since there are many circumstances authorized in law that allow an ELC to waive the parent copayments.

Calculation and Distribution of School Readiness Funding

The bill modifies s. 1002.84(17), F.S., to require that SR funds be distributed to eligible SR providers using the cost of care or reimbursement rates developed in accordance with s. 1002.90, F.S. The bill removes language which provided the methodology for distribution that included the following:

- Multiplying the costs of care by care level with the county’s comparable wage factor provided in s. 1011.62(2), F.S.
- Multiplying the provider reimbursement rates by the adjustment factor in the general appropriations act in certain circumstances for lower child to staff ratios.

- Applying the weight established in s. 1002.90 for each provider by care level.
- Multiplying the weighted provider reimbursement rates by 22 percent to determine amount retained by ELCs.

The bill allows ELCs with higher reimbursement rates than those established in s. 1002.90, F.S., to continue to reimburse providers at those rates.

The bill modifies s. 1002.89, F.S. to change the criteria for the annual allocation for the SR programs if it is not determined in the General Appropriations Act. The bill requires, that the allocation is required to be determined using the following:

- The full-time equivalent program enrollment estimates for each care level.
- The approved cost of care or provider rates developed in accordance with s. 1002.90, F.S.
- The total SR population adopted by the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference.
- The allowable coalition administrative and indirect costs.

The bill also removes a requirement that all allocations be used by the DOE to help meet federal targeted requirements for improving quality to the extent allowable in the state's approved Child Care and Development Fund plan for the allocations for the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, the Differential Payment Program, and the Special Needs Differential.

The bill modifies s. 1002.90, F.S., to allow the principals of the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference to develop provider reimbursement rates in addition to or instead of official cost-of-care information. The bill also removes language that required the same conference to provide official cost-of-care information to the legislature at least 90 prior to the annual legislative session.

Early Learning Coalition Plans

The bill modifies s. 1002.85, F.S., regarding ELC plans and the data the DOE will collect in reference to children of families whose income is below 55 percent of the state median income rather than below 150 percent of the federal poverty level, and updates the reporting year to July 1, 2025.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1002.81, 1002.84, 1002.85, 1002.89, and 1002.90.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

By Senator Calatayud

38-01138A-24

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the school readiness program;
 3 amending s. 1002.81, F.S.; revising the definition of
 4 the term "economically disadvantaged"; amending s.
 5 1002.84, F.S.; revising requirements for the sliding
 6 fee scale for families receiving school readiness
 7 program services to include a new method to calculate
 8 parent copayments at the time of eligibility
 9 determination and annually thereafter, regardless of
 10 the number of children; revising the methodology for
 11 distributing school readiness program funds to
 12 eligible providers; amending s. 1002.85, F.S.;
 13 revising requirements for the data elements that must
 14 be collected and reported by the Department of
 15 Education; revising the date by which the report must
 16 be implemented; amending s. 1002.89, F.S.; revising
 17 the method for determining the annual allocation for
 18 the school readiness program; deleting a provision
 19 relating to certain expenditures from the Gold Seal
 20 Quality Care Program allocation; deleting a provision
 21 relating to certain expenditures from the differential
 22 payment program allocation; deleting a provision
 23 relating to certain expenditures from the special
 24 needs differential allocation; amending s. 1002.90,
 25 F.S.; requiring that provider reimbursement rates be
 26 established based on certain information; deleting a
 27 requirement for the Early Learning Programs Estimating
 28 Conference to provide official cost-of-care
 29 information to the Legislature; providing an effective

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30 date.
 31
 32 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature to preserve
 33 parent choice and ensure that young children have access to
 34 high-quality early education opportunities that promote
 35 kindergarten readiness and prepare them for later economic
 36 success, and
 37 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature to increase
 38 workforce participation, strengthen this state's economy, and
 39 support low-income families on a path to reach economic self-
 40 sufficiency, NOW, THEREFORE,
 41
 42 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 43
 44 Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 1002.81, Florida
 45 Statutes, is amended to read:
 46 1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of 45
 47 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:
 48 (6) "Economically disadvantaged" means having a family
 49 income that does not exceed 55 percent of the state median
 50 income ~~150 percent of the federal poverty level~~ and includes
 51 being a child of a working migratory family as defined by 34
 52 C.F.R. s. 200.81(d) or (f) or an agricultural worker who is
 53 employed by more than one agricultural employer during the
 54 course of a year, and whose income varies according to weather
 55 conditions and market stability.
 56 Section 2. Subsections (9) and (17) of section 1002.84,
 57 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
 58 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers

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and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

(9) ~~Implement~~ Establish a parent sliding fee scale that provides for the calculation of a parent copayment at the time of the eligibility determination and for an annual eligibility redetermination thereafter, which increases in percentage with a parent's income, regardless of the number of children, as follows:

(a) A parent whose income is at or below 60 percent of the state median income is responsible for a copayment of 7 percent of his or her income.

(b) A parent whose income is above 60 percent but at or below 65 percent of the state median income is responsible for a copayment of 9 percent of his or her income.

(c) A parent whose income is above 65 percent but at or below 75 percent of the state median income is responsible for a copayment of 11 percent of his or her income.

(d) A parent whose income is above 75 percent but at or below 80 percent of the state median income is responsible for a copayment of 13 percent of his or her income.

(e) A parent whose income is above 80 percent but at or below 85 percent of the state median income is responsible for a copayment of 15 percent of his or her income.

The parent copayment for a child who receives part-time care is 50 percent of the copayment amount calculated in paragraphs (a)–(e) ~~that is not a barrier to families receiving school readiness program services~~. A coalition may waive the copayment for an at-risk child or temporarily waive the copayment for a child whose family's income is at or below the federal poverty level or

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whose family experiences a natural disaster or an event that limits the parent's ability to pay, such as incarceration, placement in residential treatment, or becoming homeless, or an emergency situation such as a household fire or burglary, or while the parent is participating in parenting classes or participating in an Early Head Start program or Head Start Program. A parent may not transfer school readiness program services to another school readiness program provider until the parent has submitted documentation from the current school readiness program provider to the early learning coalition stating that the parent has satisfactorily fulfilled the copayment obligation.

(17) (a) Distribute the school readiness program funds as allocated in the General Appropriations Act to the eligible providers using the provider cost of care or reimbursement rates developed in accordance with s. 1002.90. following methodology:

~~1. For each county in the early learning coalition, multiply the cost of care by care level as provided in s. 1002.90 by the county's comparable wage factor provided in s. 1011.62(2).~~

~~2. If a county enacted a local ordinance before January 1, 2022, that establishes the county's staff-to-children ratio for licensed child care facilities below the ratio established in s. 402.305(4), multiply the provider reimbursement rates for that county by the adjustment factor specified in the General Appropriations Act.~~

~~3. Apply the weight established pursuant to s. 1002.90 for each provider type to calculate the minimum provider reimbursement rates by care level.~~

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4. ~~Multiply the weighted provider reimbursement rates by 22 percent to determine the amount of the school readiness allocation an early learning coalition is eligible to retain pursuant to s. 1002.89(4).~~

(b) Distribute to each eligible provider the minimum provider reimbursement rate, by provider type and care level, regardless of the provider's private pay rate. All minimum provider reimbursement rates shall be charged as direct services pursuant to s. 1002.89.

Each early learning coalition with approved minimum provider reimbursement rates for the infant to age 5 care levels that are higher than the minimum provider reimbursement rates developed in accordance with s. 1002.90 ~~established in this subsection~~ may continue to implement its approved minimum provider reimbursement rates until the rates established in this subsection exceed its approved rates.

Section 3. Subsection (5) of section 1002.85, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.85 Early learning coalition plans.—

(5) The department shall collect and report data on coalition delivery of early learning programs. Data elements ~~must shall~~ include, but are not limited to, measures related to progress ~~toward~~ towards reducing the number of children on the waiting list, the percentage of children served by the program as compared to the number of administrative staff and overhead, the percentage of children served compared to total number of children younger than ~~under~~ the age of 5 years whose family income is below 55 percent of the state median income ~~150~~

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~~percent of the federal poverty level~~, provider payment processes, fraud intervention, child attendance and stability, use of child care resource and referral, and kindergarten readiness outcomes for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program or the school readiness program upon entry into kindergarten. The department shall request input from the coalitions and school readiness program providers before finalizing the format and data to be used. The report must ~~shall~~ be implemented beginning July 1, 2025 ~~2014~~, and results of the report must be included in the annual report under s. 1002.82.

Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 1002.89, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

(1) DETERMINATION OF EARLY LEARNING COALITION SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM FUNDING.—Funding for the school readiness program shall be used by the early learning coalitions in accordance with this part and the General Appropriations Act.

(a) *School readiness program allocation.*—If the annual allocation for the school readiness program is not determined in the General Appropriations Act or the substantive bill implementing the General Appropriations Act, it must ~~shall~~ be determined based on a calculation that considers, at a minimum, full-time equivalent program enrollment estimates per care level, approved cost of care or provider reimbursement rates developed in accordance with s. 1002.90, the total school readiness eligible population as adopted by the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference pursuant to s. 216.136(8), and coalition administrative and indirect service costs as allowed pursuant to s. 1002.89(4). ~~as follows:~~

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1. ~~For each county in the early learning coalition, the total school readiness eligible population, as adopted by the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference pursuant to s. 216.136(8), shall be multiplied by the county's comparable wage factor provided in s. 1011.62(2).~~

2. ~~If a county passed a local ordinance before January 1, 2022, that establishes the county's staff-to-children ratio for licensed child care facilities below the ratio established in s. 402.305(4), multiply the product calculated in subparagraph 1. by the adjustment factor specified in the General Appropriations Act.~~

3. ~~Each county's school readiness allocation shall be based on the county's proportionate share of the total adjusted eligible school readiness population.~~

(b) ~~Gold Seal Quality Care Program allocation.~~—There is created the Gold Seal Quality Care Program allocation to provide eligible school readiness program providers the rate differential established pursuant to s. 1002.945(6). ~~Subject to legislative appropriation, all expenditures from the Gold Seal Quality Care Program allocation shall be used by the department to help meet federal targeted requirements for improving quality to the extent allowable in the state's approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan.~~

(c) ~~Differential payment program allocation.~~—There is created the differential payment program allocation to provide eligible school readiness program providers the differential pay established pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(c). ~~Subject to legislative appropriation, all expenditures from the differential payment program allocation shall be used by the department to help meet~~

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~~federal targeted requirements for improving quality to the extent allowable in the state's approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan.~~

(d) *Special needs differential allocation.*—There is created the special needs differential allocation to assist eligible school readiness program providers to implement the special needs rate provisions defined in the state's approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan. ~~Subject to legislative appropriation, each early learning coalition shall be reimbursed based on actual expenditures. All expenditures from the special needs differential allocation shall be used by the department to help meet federal targeted requirements for improving quality to the extent allowable in the state's approved plan.~~

Section 5. Section 1002.90, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.90 School readiness cost-of-care information.—Annually, the principals of the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference established in s. 216.136(8) shall develop official cost-of-care information or provider reimbursement rates based on actual school readiness direct services program expenditures and information provided pursuant to s. 1002.895. Conference principals shall agree on the cost of child care by care level and provider type, the provider type weights if applicable, and the methods of computation. The department shall provide the conference principals with all requested and necessary data to develop such information. The data may include a matrix by early learning coalition of any full-time equivalent changes made by the Division of Early Learning as part of its administration of the school readiness program. ~~The Early~~

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233 ~~Learning Programs Estimating Conference shall provide the~~
234 ~~official cost-of-care information to the Legislature at least 90~~
235 ~~days before the scheduled annual legislative session.~~
236 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1/17/24
Meeting Date

Education
Committee

916
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Michael Barrett Phone (850) 205-6823

Address 201 W. Park Ave Email mbarrett@flaccb.org
Street

Tallahassee FL 32301
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:
Florida Conference of
Catholic Bishops

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

1/17/24
Meeting Date
Ed PreK-12
Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to
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SB 916
Bill Number or Topic
4
Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Norin Dollard Phone (407) 440-1421 x709
Address 1004 E Cavacas St Email dollard@floridapolicy.org
Tampa FL 33603
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☒ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

1/12/24
Meeting Date

916
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic School Readiness Program

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Edward Briggs

Job Title _____

Address _____
Street

Phone 850 933 5994

City

State

Zip

Email _____

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Helios Education Foundation

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

1/17/24

Meeting Date

916

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic School Readiness

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Matt Herndon

Job Title Dir. Local Gov. Relations + Comm. Affairs

Address 113 E College Ave
Street

Phone 941-704-2793

Tallahassee FL 32301
City State Zip

Email matt@teamrsa.com

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing United Way Suncoast, Tampa Bay Partnership, United Way of FL

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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S-001 (10/14/14)

The Florida Senate

1/17/24

APPEARANCE RECORD

SB 916 School Readiness Program

Meeting Date

Education PreK-12

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name **Michele Watson**

Phone **850-320-2388**

Address **1203 Governor's Square Blvd.**

Email **mwatson@FACCT.com**

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32301

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

**Florida Alliance of Children's
Councils & Trusts**

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

1/17/24

Meeting Date

Ed Prek-12

Committee

Name Sarah Massey

Phone 850.545.0543

Address 136 S. Bronough St

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32301

City

State

Zip

Email

914
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

Florida Chamber of Commerce

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

916

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Meeting Date

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Committee

1-17-2024
Senate Education

Name

Molly Grant

Phone

(850) 577 1789

Address

206 B S Monroe St.

Email

mgrant@aelfl.org

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32301

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☒

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☒

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

BILL: SB 1356

INTRODUCER: Senator Calatayud

SUBJECT: School Safety

DATE: January 16, 2024

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Brick	Bouck	ED	Favorable
2.			CJ	
3.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 1356 authorizes a sheriff to waive certain training requirements for the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program, if a guardian candidate has at least two years of law enforcement experience and held an active law enforcement certificate within the past 5 years.

The bill also requires specific annual instruction to be provided to students regarding FortifyFL and the consequences for making:

- A threat to throw, project, place, or discharge any destructive device with intent to do bodily harm to any person or with intent to do damage to any property of any person.
- A false report, with intent to deceive, mislead, or otherwise misinform any person, concerning the placing or planting of any bomb, dynamite, other deadly explosive, or weapon of mass destruction, or concerning the use of firearms in a violent manner against a person or persons.

Lastly, the bill requires the district school superintendent to notify the postsecondary institution at which a student is dually enrolled within 24 hours of being notified by law enforcement of an alleged delinquent act by a student that would be a felony if committed by an adult.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

II. Present Situation:

Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program

Sheriffs are required to assist district school boards, charter school governing boards, and private schools in exercising options for safe-school officers. A sheriff is required to provide access to a

Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises.¹

A sheriff who establishes a Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program is required to consult with the Department of Law Enforcement on programmatic guiding principles, practices, and resources, and certify as school guardians, school employees who:²

- Hold a license to carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm.
- Complete a 144-hour training program, consisting of 12 hours of certified nationally recognized diversity training and 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission-certified instructors.
- Pass a psychological evaluation.
- Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests.
- Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual basis.

The required 132 hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training includes:³

- Eighty hours of firearms instruction based on the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law Enforcement Academy training model, which must include at least 10 percent but no more than 20 percent more rounds fired than associated with academy training. Program participants must achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training.
- Sixteen hours of instruction in precision pistol.
- Eight hours of discretionary shooting instruction using state-of-the-art simulator exercises.
- Sixteen hours of instruction in active shooter or assailant scenarios.
- Eight hours of instruction in defensive tactics.
- Four hours of instruction in legal issues.

The sheriff who conducts the guardian training is required to issue a school guardian certificate to individuals who meet these requirements and maintain documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification, inspection, and qualification records of each school guardian certified by the sheriff.⁴

There are currently 49 counties that are participating in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program.⁵

Mobile Suspicious Activity Reporting Tool

The mobile suspicious activity reporting tool (FortifyFL) allows students and the community to relay information anonymously concerning unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent, or

¹ Section 30.15(1)(k), F.S.

² Section 30.15(1)(k)2., F.S.

³ Section 30.15(1)(k)2.b., F.S.

⁴ Section 30.15(1)(k), F.S.

⁵ Florida Department of Education, *Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, & Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program*, <https://www.fldoe.org/safe-schools/guardian-program.stml> (last visited Jan. 11, 2024).

criminal activities, or the threat of these activities, to appropriate public safety agencies and school officials.⁶ FortifyFL is a computer and mobile phone application free to all public and private schools in Florida. District and school-level administrators receive and must respond to tips from FortifyFL. Any tips submitted via FortifyFL are sent to local school district and law enforcement officials until action is taken.⁷

District school boards are required to promote the use of the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool by advertising it on the school district website, in newsletters, on school campuses, in school publications, by installing it on all mobile devices issued to students, and by bookmarking the website on all computer devices issued to students.⁸

The reporting tool is required to notify the reporting party that:⁹

- If, following an investigation, it is determined that a person knowingly submitted a false tip through FortifyFL, the Internet protocol (IP) address of the device on which the tip was submitted will be provided to law enforcement agencies for further investigation; and
- The reporting party may be subject to criminal penalties for a false report to law enforcement authorities.¹⁰
- In circumstances that do not involve a false tip submitted through FortifyFL, unless the reporting party has chosen to disclose his or her identity, the report remains anonymous.

Specific Crimes Involving Threats or False Reports

Threat to throw, project, place, or discharge any destructive device

It is unlawful for any person to threaten to throw, project, place, or discharge any destructive device with intent to do bodily harm to any person or with intent to do damage to any property of any person, and any person convicted thereof commits a felony of the second degree.¹¹

False report concerning planting a bomb, an explosive, or a weapon of mass destruction, or concerning the use of firearms in a violent manner

It is unlawful for any person to make a false report, with intent to deceive, mislead, or otherwise misinform any person, concerning the placing or planting of any bomb, dynamite, other deadly explosive, or weapon of mass destruction, or concerning the use of firearms in a violent manner against a person or persons. A person who commits such an act commits a felony of the second degree.¹²

When a child of any age is taken into custody by a law enforcement officer for an offense that would have been a felony if committed by an adult, or a crime of violence, the law enforcement

⁶ Section 943.082(1), F.S.

⁷ Florida Department of Education, *FortifyFL School Safety Awareness Program*, at 1-2 (Oct. 26, 2018) available at <https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-8397/dps-2018-157.pdf>.

⁸ Section 943.082(4)(b), F.S.

⁹ Section 943.082(2)(c), F.S.

¹⁰ False reports to law enforcement authorities are addressed in s. 837.05, F.S.

¹¹ Section 790.162, F.S.

¹² Section 790.163(1), F.S.

agency must notify the superintendent of schools that the child is alleged to have committed the delinquent act.¹³

Dual Enrollment Program

Dual enrollment is the enrollment of an eligible secondary student or home education student in a postsecondary course creditable toward both a high school diploma and a career certificate or an associate or baccalaureate degree.¹⁴ To be eligible for dual enrollment a student must be enrolled in grades 6 through 12 in a Florida public school or in a Florida private school that is in compliance with the requirements specified in law¹⁵ and provides a secondary curriculum pursuant to law. Dual enrollment instruction may be offered on the high school or eligible postsecondary institution campus.¹⁶ Students who meet the eligibility requirement and who participate in dual enrollment programs are exempt from the payment of registration, tuition, and laboratory fees.¹⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 1356 modifies s. 30.15, F.S., to authorize a sheriff to waive the training requirements, except for the required instruction in legal issues, for the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program, if a guardian candidate has at least two years of law enforcement experience and held an active law enforcement certificate within the past 5 years.

The bill modifies s. 943.082, F.S., to require each school principal to ensure annual instruction is provided to students on the use of FortifyFL. The instruction must be age and developmentally appropriate and include the consequences for, when school or school personnel's property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity is involved, making:

- A threat to throw, project, place, or discharge any destructive device with intent to do bodily harm to any person or with intent to do damage to any property of any person.
- A false report, with intent to deceive, mislead, or otherwise misinform any person, concerning the placing or planting of any bomb, dynamite, other deadly explosive, or weapon of mass destruction, or concerning the use of firearms in a violent manner against a person or persons.

The bill modifies s. 985.04, F.S., to address the reporting of crimes in the case of a child who is alleged to have committed an offense that would have been a felony if committed by an adult. If the child is a dually enrolled student at a postsecondary institution, the bill requires the district school superintendent to notify the postsecondary institution at which the student is dually enrolled within 24 hours of being notified by law enforcement of the delinquent act by the student.

¹³ Section 985.04(4)(a), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 1007.271(1), F.S.

¹⁵ Section 1002.42, F.S.

¹⁶ Eligible postsecondary institutions include career centers under s. 1001.44, F.S., state universities under s. 1000.21(8), F.S., Florida College System institutions under s. 1000.21(5), F.S., and private colleges and universities that are not for profit, are accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, and confer degrees, pursuant to s. 1011.61(1)(i), F.S.

¹⁷ Section 1007.271, F.S. However, s. 1011.62(1)(i), F.S., specifies that the exemption from tuition and fees does not apply to dual enrollment at an eligible private postsecondary institution.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 30.15, 943.082, and 985.04.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

By Senator Calatayud

38-01126-24

20241356__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to school safety; amending s. 30.15, F.S.; authorizing sheriffs to waive certain requirements for school guardian candidates under certain conditions; making technical changes; amending s. 943.082, F.S.; requiring school principals to ensure that instruction is provided at least annually to students on the use of the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool; providing requirements for such instruction; amending s. 985.04, F.S.; requiring superintendents to notify, within a specified timeframe, the chief of police or the public safety director of a postsecondary institution in which a student is dual enrolled if such student commits certain offenses; providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that in order to prevent potential acts of violence on the campuses of secondary and postsecondary institutions, coordination between law enforcement and the leadership of each respective institution is critical, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds it necessary that in the cases of dual enrolled students, notices of students who are arrested for crimes of violence or students who have made credible threats of violence be made to both institutions at which the student is enrolled in order to prevent a violent act from transpiring on the campus of either the secondary or postsecondary institution, NOW, THEREFORE,

Page 1 of 7

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38-01126-24

20241356__

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

Section 1. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section 30.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

30.15 Powers, duties, and obligations.—

(1) Sheriffs, in their respective counties, in person or by deputy, shall:

(k) Assist district school boards and charter school governing boards in complying with, or private schools in exercising options in, s. 1006.12. A sheriff must, at a minimum, provide access to a Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises, as required under this paragraph. Persons certified as school guardians pursuant to this paragraph have no authority to act in any law enforcement capacity except to the extent necessary to prevent or abate an active assailant incident.

1.a. If a local school board has voted by a majority to implement a guardian program, the sheriff in that county must ~~shall~~ establish a guardian program to provide training, pursuant to subparagraph 2., to school district, charter school, or private school employees, either directly or through a contract with another sheriff's office that has established a guardian program.

b. A charter school governing board in a school district that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian program may request the sheriff in the county to establish a guardian program for the purpose of training the charter school employees. If the county sheriff denies the request, the charter

Page 2 of 7

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 59 school governing board may contract with a sheriff that has
 60 established a guardian program to provide such training. The
 61 charter school governing board shall ~~must~~ notify the
 62 superintendent and the sheriff in the charter school's county of
 63 the contract ~~before~~ prior to its execution.

64 c. A private school in a school district that has not
 65 voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian program may
 66 request that the sheriff in the county of the private school
 67 establish a guardian program for the purpose of training private
 68 school employees. If the county sheriff denies the request, the
 69 private school may contract with a sheriff from another county
 70 who has established a guardian program to provide such training.
 71 The private school shall ~~must~~ notify the sheriff in the private
 72 school's county of the contract with a sheriff from another
 73 county before its execution. The private school is responsible
 74 for all training costs for a school guardian program. The
 75 sheriff providing such training shall ~~must~~ ensure that any
 76 moneys paid by a private school are not commingled with any
 77 funds provided by the state to the sheriff as reimbursement for
 78 screening-related and training-related costs of any school
 79 district or charter school employee.

80 d. The training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b.
 81 is a standardized statewide curriculum, and each sheriff
 82 providing such training shall adhere to the course of
 83 instruction specified in that sub-subparagraph. This
 84 subparagraph does not prohibit a sheriff from providing
 85 additional training. A school guardian who has completed the
 86 training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b. is ~~may~~ not ~~be~~
 87 required to attend another sheriff's training program pursuant

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 88 to that sub-subparagraph unless there has been at least a 1-year
 89 break in his or her employment as a guardian.

90 e. The sheriff conducting the training pursuant to
 91 subparagraph 2. must ~~will~~ be reimbursed for screening-related
 92 and training-related costs and for providing a one-time stipend
 93 of \$500 to each school guardian who participates in the school
 94 guardian program.

95 2. A sheriff who establishes a program shall consult with
 96 the Department of Law Enforcement on programmatic guiding
 97 principles, practices, and resources, and shall certify as
 98 school guardians, without the power of arrest, school employees,
 99 as specified in s. 1006.12(3), who:

100 a. Hold a valid license issued under s. 790.06.

101 b. Complete a 144-hour training program, consisting of 12
 102 hours of certified nationally recognized diversity training and
 103 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency
 104 training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and Training
 105 Commission-certified instructors, which must include:

106 (I) Eighty hours of firearms instruction based on the
 107 Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law
 108 Enforcement Academy training model, which must include at least
 109 10 percent but no more than 20 percent more rounds fired than
 110 associated with academy training. Program participants must
 111 achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training.

112 (II) Sixteen hours of instruction in precision pistol.

113 (III) Eight hours of discretionary shooting instruction
 114 using state-of-the-art simulator exercises.

115 (IV) Sixteen hours of instruction in active shooter or
 116 assailant scenarios.

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117 (V) Eight hours of instruction in defensive tactics.
 118 (VI) Four hours of instruction in legal issues.
 119 c. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a
 120 psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the
 121 Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the
 122 evaluation to the sheriff's office. The Department of Law
 123 Enforcement is authorized to provide the sheriff's office with
 124 mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this
 125 paragraph.
 126 d. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent
 127 random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s.
 128 112.0455 and the sheriff's office.
 129 e. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon
 130 inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual
 131 basis.
 132
 133 A sheriff has the discretion to waive the requirements of sub-
 134 sub-subparagraphs 2.b.(I)-(V) if a guardian candidate has at
 135 least 2 years of law enforcement experience and held an active
 136 law enforcement certificate within the past 5 years. The sheriff
 137 who conducts the guardian training shall issue a school guardian
 138 certificate to individuals who meet the requirements of this
 139 section to the satisfaction of the sheriff, and shall maintain
 140 documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, as well as
 141 the training, certification, inspection, and qualification
 142 records of each school guardian certified by the sheriff. An
 143 individual ~~who is~~ certified under this paragraph may serve as a
 144 school guardian under s. 1006.12(3) only if he or she is
 145 appointed by the applicable school district superintendent,

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146 charter school principal, or private school head of school.
 147 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
 148 943.082, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 149 943.082 School Safety Awareness Program.—
 150 (4)
 151 (b) The district school board shall promote the use of the
 152 mobile suspicious activity reporting tool by advertising it on
 153 the school district website, in newsletters, on school campuses,
 154 and in school publications, by installing it on all mobile
 155 devices issued to students, and by bookmarking the website on
 156 all computer devices issued to students. Each school principal
 157 shall ensure that instruction on the use of the mobile
 158 suspicious activity reporting tool includes FortifyFL, and is
 159 provided to students at least once per school year. The
 160 instruction must be age and developmentally appropriate and
 161 include the consequences for making a threat or false report as
 162 defined by ss. 790.162 and 790.163, respectively, involving
 163 school or school personnel's property, school transportation, or
 164 a school-sponsored activity.
 165 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
 166 985.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
 167 985.04 Oaths; records; confidential information.—
 168 (4) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,
 169 when a child of any age is taken into custody by a law
 170 enforcement officer for an offense that would have been a felony
 171 if committed by an adult, or a crime of violence, the law
 172 enforcement agency must notify the superintendent of schools
 173 that the child is alleged to have committed the delinquent act.
 174 If the child is a dual enrolled student at a postsecondary

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175 institution, the superintendent of schools must notify the chief
176 of police or the public safety director of the postsecondary
177 institution at which the student is dual enrolled within 24
178 hours of the initial notification.

179 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

January 17, 2024

Meeting Date
Education Pre-K

Committee

Name **Barney Bishop III**

Address **1454 Vieux Carre Drive**
Street

Tallahassee
City

FL
State

32308
Zip

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1356

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Phone **850-510-9922**

Email **Barney@BarneyBishop.com**

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Florida Smart Justice Alliance

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

BILL: SPB 7038

INTRODUCER: Education Pre-K -12 Committee

SUBJECT: Education

DATE: January 18, 2024

REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. <u>Brick/Sabitsch</u>	<u>Bouck</u>	_____	ED Submitted as Comm. Bill/Fav

I. Summary:

SPB 7038 expands the focus of the New Worlds Reading Initiative to include mathematics and rebrands it as the New Worlds Learning Initiative. The bill enhances the New World Learning Initiative (NWLI) by:

- Establishing the New Worlds Tutoring Program to support school districts and schools in improving student achievement in reading and mathematics.
- Expanding the eligibility for the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts to include Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) students.
- Clarifying student eligibility for supports under the NWLI as identified in student progress monitoring.
- Providing a mechanism for parents to use the New Worlds Scholarship Account to make direct purchases of qualifying expenditures.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

II. Present Situation:

New Worlds Reading Initiative

In 2021, the Florida Legislature created the New Worlds Reading Initiative (NWRI), Florida's first statewide book distribution program, to provide at-home literacy supports for students identified with a substantial reading deficiency or students who scored below a Level 3 on the preceding year's statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) assessment.¹ To improve the literacy skills of students in prekindergarten through grade 12, the NWRI consists of:²

- The program to provide high-quality, free books to students in prekindergarten through grade 5 who:
 - Are not yet reading on grade level;

¹ Section 1003.485(2), F.S.

² Section 1003.485(2), F.S.

- Have a substantial reading deficiency in reading or the characteristics of dyslexia based upon screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring, or assessment data; statewide assessments; or teacher observations;³
- Have a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills based upon the results of the CSPM; or
- Scored below a Level 3 on the preceding year's statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.
- The New Worlds Scholarship Program.
- The New Worlds Scholar Program, which rewards high school students who instill a love of reading and improve the literacy skills of students in kindergarten through grade 3.
- The micro-credential program, which emphasizes strong core instruction and a tiered model of reading interventions for struggling readers.

Department of Education Responsibilities

To facilitate the NWRI, the Department of Education (DOE) is required to designate an administrator to implement the initiative and to receive funding. The administrator is required to be a state university registered with the DOE as an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.⁴ In addition, the administrator must have an academic innovation institution with extensive experience in:⁵

- Conducting academic research in early literacy instruction.
- Implementing online delivery of early learning and literacy training for educators nationally.
- Developing online support materials that assist parents and caregivers in developing early literacy skills.
- Conducting fundraising and public awareness campaigns to support the development and growth of evidence-based educational initiatives that support learning at home and in schools.

The Lastinger Center for Learning

The Lastinger Center for Learning at the University of Florida is the designated administrator of the NWRI.⁶ As the administrator, the Lastinger Center for Learning is required to administer the early literacy micro-credential program. The micro-credential curriculum is required to be designed specifically for instructional personnel in prekindergarten through grade 3 based upon the strategies and techniques to address the age-appropriate progress of prekindergarten students in developing emergent literacy skills, including oral communication, knowledge of print and letters, phonological and phonemic awareness, vocabulary and comprehension development, and foundational background knowledge designed to correlate with the content that students will encounter in grades K-12, consistent with the evidence-based content and strategies grounded in the science of reading.⁷

³ Section 1008.25(5)(a), F.S.

⁴ Section 1003.485(1)(a), F.S. Section 1002.395(15)(i), F.S., establishes eligibility for a university to serve as a scholarship funding organization.

⁵ Section 1003.485(3)(a), F.S.

⁶ UF Lastinger Center for Learning, *About: History*, <https://lastinger.center.ufl.edu/about/> (last visited Jan. 9, 2024).

⁷ Sections 1003.485(4)(i) and 1002.59(1), F.S.

The Lastinger Center for Learning has developed three micro-credentials, known as the Flamingo Literacy Micro-Credentials, which are a hybrid model of online modules, instructor-supported online courses, and job-embedded practicum. All three credentials are designed so they can be completed in four months.⁸

The application for the micro-credential became available in January 2023 and as of December 31, 2023, 2,838 individuals have completed the emergent micro-credential, 934 completed the elementary micro-credential, and 185 completed the secondary micro-credential. Also, 791 Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK) personnel completed either the emergent or elementary literacy micro-credential.⁹

The administrator is required to annually submit to the DOE an annual financial report that includes, at a minimum, the amount of eligible contributions received by the administrator; the amount spent by the administrator on all of the activities required by the NWRI, including administrative expenses; and the number of students and households served under the NWRI.¹⁰

In 2022 the New Worlds Reading Initiative served all 67 Florida counties, 2,387 schools, and 165,672 students with over two million books shipped. Over \$7.6 million was raised in tax credit donations.¹¹ Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, VPK students were included in the program, and over 3,500 have already been approved to receive books.¹²

Tax Credits

Under the NWRI, businesses that make monetary donations to the administrator may receive a dollar-for-dollar credit against liabilities for:

- Corporate income tax.¹³
- Insurance premium tax.¹⁴
- Severance taxes on oil and gas production.¹⁵
- Alcoholic beverage tax on beer, wine, and spirits.¹⁶
- Self-accrued sales tax liability of direct pay permit holders.¹⁷

The tax credit cap amount was \$10 million for the 2021-2022 state fiscal year, \$30 million for the 2022-2023 state fiscal year, and is \$60 million in each state fiscal year thereafter.¹⁸

⁸ UF, Lastinger Center for Learning, *Flamingo Literacy Micro-Credentials*, <https://lastinger.center.ufl.edu/work/literacy/flamingo-literacy/literacy-microcredentials/> (last visited Jan. 11, 2024).

⁹ Email, Florida Department of Education (Jan. 8, 2024).

¹⁰ Section 1003.485(4)(j), F.S.

¹¹ University of Florida, Lastinger Center for Learning, 2022 Annual Report (2022), *available at* https://lastinger.center.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/LC-Annual-Report-2022_web-2.pdf.

¹² Email, Lastinger Center for Learning, External Affairs and Communication (Jan. 8, 2024).

¹³ Section 220.1876, F.S.

¹⁴ Section 624.51056, F.S.

¹⁵ Section 211.0252, F.S.

¹⁶ Section 561.1212, F.S.

¹⁷ Section 212.1833, F.S.

¹⁸ Section 1003.485(5), F.S.

Professional Development

Traditional professional development is differentiated from professional learning, which is intended to result in system-wide changes in student outcomes. Professional development is usually associated with one-time workshops, seminars, or lectures that are one-size-fits-all. Professional learning is typically interactive, ongoing, and tailored to the needs of educators. This approach encourages educators to take ownership of learning and apply what they've learned in different contexts.¹⁹

Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring

To facilitate timely interventions and supports for students in prekindergarten through grade 10, VPK providers and public schools in Florida are required to participate in a coordinated screening and progress monitoring system (CSPM) for students in VPK through grade 8 for mathematics and VPK through grade 10 in ELA.²⁰ The CSPM tool is administered three times each school year and is required to:²¹

- Measure student progress in meeting the appropriate expectations in early literacy and mathematic skills and in English Language Arts and mathematic standards.
- For students in VPK to grade 3 measure student performance in oral language development, phonological and phonemic awareness, knowledge of print and letters, decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, as applicable by grade level.
- Be valid, reliable, and developmentally appropriate computer-adaptive that identifies students who have a substantial deficiency in reading, including identifying students with characteristics of dyslexia.
- Provide data that can be used for VPK Program accountability requirements.
- Provide VPK program providers, school districts, schools and teachers with data and resources that enhance differentiated instruction and parental communication.
- Provide baseline data to the DOE of each student's readiness for kindergarten.
- Assess how well educational goals and curricular standards are met at the provider, school, district, and state levels and provide information to the DOE to aid in the development of educational programs, policies, and supports for providers, districts, and schools.
- Provide results from the first two administrations of the CSPM to a student's teacher within 1 week and to the student's parent within 2 weeks of the administration of the CSPM.

New Worlds Scholarship Accounts

The New Worlds Scholarship Accounts provide educational options for students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 5 on a first-come, first-served basis, who have a substantial deficiency in reading or math or exhibits characteristics of dyslexia or dyscalculia, as assessed by the CSPM, or who scored below a Level 3 on the statewide, standardized ELA or Mathematics

¹⁹ IES REL Regional Educational Laboratory Program, *Distinguishing Professional Learning from Professional Development*, https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/pacific/blogs/blog2_DistinguishingProfLearning.asp#:~:text=Professional%20development%2C%20which%20%E2%80%9Chappens%20to%E2%80%9D%20teachers%2C%20is%20often,typically%20interactive%2C%20sustained%2C%20and%20customized%20to%20teachers%27%20needs. (last visited Jan. 11, 2024).

²⁰ Section 1008.25(9)(b), F.S.

²¹ Section 1008.25(9)(a), F.S.

assessment in the prior school year.²² An eligible student who is classified as an English Language Learner and is enrolled in a program or receives services that are specifically designed to meet the instructional needs of such students is given priority for the scholarship.²³ For the 2023-2024 school year, the amount of the scholarship is \$500 per eligible student.²⁴

An eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization participating in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program²⁵ may establish scholarship accounts for eligible students.²⁶ For an eligible student to receive a scholarship account, the student's parent must:²⁷

- Submit an application to an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization by the deadline established by such organization; and
- Submit eligible expenses to the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for reimbursement of qualifying expenditures.

Qualifying expenditures include:²⁸

- Instructional materials.
- Curriculum.
- Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's certificate, a person who holds a baccalaureate or graduate degree in the subject area, a person who holds an adjunct teaching certificate, or a person who has demonstrated a mastery of subject area knowledge.
- Fees for summer education programs designed to improve reading, literacy, or mathematics skills.
- Fees for after-school education programs designed to improve reading, literacy, or mathematics skills.

By September 30 of each year, the school district is required to notify the parent of each eligible student of the process to request and receive a scholarship.²⁹ The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization may develop a system for payment of scholarship funds by funds transfer, including, but not limited to, debit cards, electronic payment cards, or any other means of payment that the DOE deems to be commercially viable or cost-effective.³⁰

A student's scholarship award may not be reduced for debit card or electronic payment fees. Commodities or services related to the development of such a system must be procured by competitive solicitation unless they are purchased from a state term contract.³¹ Payment of the

²² Section 1002.411(2), F.S.

²³ Section 1002.411(2), F.S.

²⁴ Florida Department of Education, *New Worlds Reading Scholarship Accounts*, <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/reading/> (last visited Jan. 9, 2024).

²⁵ Section 1002.395, F.S.

²⁶ Section 1002.411(4), F.S.

²⁷ Section 1002.411(3)(a), F.S.

²⁸ Section 1002.411(3)(a)2., F.S.

²⁹ Section 1002.411(6)(a), F.S.

³⁰ Section 1002.411(7)(e), F.S.

³¹ Section 1002.411(7)(e), F.S. State term contracts must meet the requirements in s. 287.056, F.S.

scholarship shall be made by the eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization no less frequently than on a quarterly basis.³²

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SPB 7038 expands the focus of the New Worlds Reading Initiative to include mathematics and rebrands it as the New Worlds Learning Initiative. The bill enhances the New World Learning Initiative (NWLI) by:

- Establishing the New Worlds Tutoring Program to support school districts and schools in improving student achievement in reading and mathematics.
- Expanding the eligibility for the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts to include Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) students.
- Clarifying student eligibility for supports under the NWLI as identified in student progress monitoring.
- Providing a mechanism for parents to use the New Worlds Scholarship Account to make direct purchases of qualifying expenditures.

New Worlds Learning Initiative

The bill modifies s. 1003.485, F.S., to rebrand the New Worlds Reading Initiative as the New Worlds Learning Initiative. The bill creates within the New Worlds Learning Initiative the New Worlds Tutoring Program to support school districts and schools in improving student achievement in reading and mathematics.

Department of Education Responsibilities

The bill modifies the responsibilities of the Department of Education (DOE) to:

- Remove the requirement for DOE to designate an administrator to implement the New Worlds initiative and to receive funding.
- Require the DOE to provide the administrator with progress-monitoring data for all eligible students in prekindergarten through grade 12 within 30 days after the close of each progress-monitoring period.

Lastinger Center for Learning

The bill specifies that the University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning is the administrator of the New Worlds Learning Initiative. The bill adds to the required annual financial report from the administrator the number of micro-credentials and reading endorsements earned, a breakdown of students households served under each component of the New Worlds Learning Initiative, and the means by which additional literacy or mathematics support was provided to students.

The bill expands the early literacy micro-credential to include attention to early mathematics skills. Specifically, the bill:

- Establishes the micro-credential program as the New Worlds micro-credential program.

³² Section 1002.411(7)(e), F.S.

- Adds best practices for mathematics instruction to the science of reading in the definition of the micro-credential that must include evidence-based professional learning activities that are competency-based, personalized, and on-demand.
- Expands the emphasis of the micro-credential program beyond strong core instruction and a tiered model of reading interventions for struggling readers to include interventions for students to improve in reading or mathematics.

The bill requires the New Worlds Learning Initiative administrator to administer the New Worlds Tutoring Program. Under the bill, the administrator is required to:

- Establish a process by which district school boards may apply to receive grant funds or additional services to support the implementation of tutoring programs in their respective districts.
- Contingent upon available funds, establish agreements with each participating district school board to provide program funds or direct services for additional literacy or mathematics support to, at a minimum, prekindergarten through grade 5 students enrolled in a public school who have a substantial deficiency in reading or mathematics.
- Provide best practice science of reading guidelines for school districts in consultation with the Just Read, Florida! Office.
- Provide technical assistance and recommend professional learning to school districts.
- Assist school districts in reviewing tutoring programs, professional learning programs, curriculum, and resources to ensure they adhere to the science of reading or best practices in mathematics.
- Provide an annual report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the DOE summarizing district school board use of the program funds and known student outcomes as a result of participating in the New Worlds Tutoring Program.

The bill also requires the administrator to establish minimum standards that a district school board must meet in order to participate and receive program funds. At a minimum, these standards are required to address:

- Appropriate group sizes, the frequency and duration, and staffing qualifications for tutoring sessions;
- The use of ongoing, informal, and formal assessments to target instructional interventions; and
- Prioritization strategies for tutoring students within participating districts.

The bill authorizes district school boards to use program funds for:

- Stipends for in-person or virtual tutors during the school day, before and after school, or during a summer program;
- Licenses for computerized or automated literacy tutoring software that provides each student with real-time interventions that are based in science of reading principles or mathematics instructional best practices and are individually tailored to the needs and ability of each student;
- Professional learning for tutors participating in the program; or
- Curriculum, resources, and high quality materials necessary to implement explicit and systematic instructional strategies for tutoring.

New Worlds Book Distribution

The bill specifies that identification of an eligible prekindergarten through grade 5 student is based on the most recent, rather than preceding year's, performance on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) assessment.

Tax Credits

The bill modifies ss. 211.0252, 212.1833, 220.1876, 561.1212, and 624.51056, F.S., to reflect the renaming of the New Worlds Reading Initiative as the New Worlds Learning Initiative.

Professional Learning

The bill also changes references to “professional development” to “professional learning” as it relates to the New Worlds Learning Initiative.

New Worlds Scholarship Accounts

The bill amends s. 1002.411, F.S., to modify eligibility for the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts, the responsibilities of parents and students, district school board, and VPK providers, and account funding and payments.

The bill adds as eligible for a New Worlds Scholarship Account students who:

- Are enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program.
- Exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy or early math skills based on the most recent administration of the Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring (CSPM) tool.

The bill also modifies eligibility for students who are eligible as a result of scoring below a Level 3 on the statewide, standardized ELA or Mathematics assessment in the prior school year to provide that a student is eligible if the student scored below a Level 3 on the most recent statewide ELA or Mathematics assessment. Subject to available funding, this may allow a student to begin receiving the benefits of a New Worlds Scholarship Account in the same school year in which the student scores below a Level 3, instead of waiting until the next school year.

The bill authorizes the administrator, which must be an eligible scholarship funding organization, to develop a system that permits eligible students to use program funds to make direct purchases of qualifying expenditures. The bill also authorizes parents to use the administrator's system to make direct purchases of materials or services. These modifications may streamline a parent's ability to utilize the New Worlds Scholarship Account.

The bill expands the part-time tutoring services that qualify as eligible expenditures under New Worlds Scholarship Accounts. The bill provides that part-time tutoring services are qualifying expenditures if the services are provided by a person who has earned an early literacy or mathematics micro-credential, or, for a prekindergarten student, a person who has earned:

- A child development associate credential issued by the National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional Recognition or a credential approved by the Department of Children and Families as being equivalent to or greater than the child development associate credential;

- A bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool education, or family and consumer science; or
- A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education, if the prekindergarten instructor has been certified to teach children any age from birth through 6th grade, regardless of whether the instructor's educator certificate is current, and if the instructor is not ineligible to teach in a public school because his or her educator certificate is suspended or revoked.

The bill specifies that the requirement for a school district to notify the parent of each eligible student of the process to request and receive a scholarship applies when providing the results of the CSPM. The bill requires private VPK providers to also provide the notification to parents.

The bill also modifies s. 1008.25, F.S., to extend to VPK instructors the benefit of the requirement to receive notice from the CSPM system of the results from the first two administrations of the progress monitoring within 1 week and to the student's parent within 2 weeks after the administration of the CSPM.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. **Government Sector Impact:**

The provisions of the bill implementing provisions of the New Worlds Learning Initiative are subject to legislative appropriation.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 211.0252, 212.1833, 220.1876, 561.1212, 624.51056, 1002.411, 1003.485, and 1008.25.

IX. Additional Information:

A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. **Amendments:**

None.

FOR CONSIDERATION By the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

581-02028-24

20247038pb

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to education; amending s. 1002.411,
 3 F.S.; revising eligibility requirements for a New
 4 Worlds Scholarship Account; requiring a parent to use
 5 the administrator's system to make direct purchases of
 6 qualifying expenditures; specifying additional
 7 qualifying expenditures; requiring that the
 8 administrator of a New Worlds Scholarship Account be
 9 an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding
 10 organization; requiring each school district and
 11 prekindergarten provider to notify the parent of each
 12 eligible student of the process to request and receive
 13 a scholarship when providing certain screening and
 14 progress monitoring results; requiring eligible
 15 nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations to develop
 16 a system that allows eligible students to make direct
 17 purchases of qualifying expenditures; amending s.
 18 1003.485, F.S.; revising definitions of the terms
 19 "administrator," "initiative," and "micro-credential";
 20 renaming the New Worlds Reading Initiative as the New
 21 Worlds Learning Initiative; expanding the initiative
 22 to include improvement in mathematics skills;
 23 providing that the initiative includes the New Worlds
 24 Tutoring Program; requiring the Department of
 25 Education to provide progress monitoring data to the
 26 administrator within a specified timeframe; revising
 27 the information that the administrator must include in
 28 an annual financial report; requiring the
 29 administrator to administer the New Worlds Tutoring

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30 Program; providing requirements for program
 31 administration; making conforming changes; deleting
 32 obsolete language; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; making
 33 technical changes; requiring that the progress
 34 monitoring system provide prekindergarten instructors
 35 with certain results within a specified timeframe;
 36 amending ss. 211.0252, 212.1833, 220.1876, 561.1212,
 37 and 624.51056, F.S.; making conforming changes;
 38 providing an effective date.
 39

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

41
 42 Section 1. Subsection (2), paragraph (a) of subsection (3),
 43 subsection (4), paragraph (a) of subsection (6), and paragraph
 44 (e) of subsection (7) of section 1002.411, Florida Statutes, are
 45 amended to read:

46 1002.411 New Worlds Scholarship Accounts.—

47 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—Contingent upon available funds, and on a
 48 first-come, first-served basis, each student ~~who is~~ enrolled in
 49 the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program pursuant to s.
 50 1002.53 or a Florida public school in kindergarten through grade
 51 5 is eligible for a scholarship account if the student:

52 (a) Exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy
 53 skills, based upon the results of the most recent progress
 54 monitoring administration pursuant to s. 1008.25(9), has a
 55 substantial reading deficiency or exhibits characteristics of
 56 dyslexia as identified under s. 1008.25(5)(a) or scored below a
 57 Level 3 on the most recent statewide, standardized English
 58 Language Arts (ELA) assessment ~~in the prior school year~~. An

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59 eligible student who is classified as an English Language
60 Learner and is enrolled in a program or receiving services that
61 are specifically designed to meet the instructional needs of
62 English Language Learner students ~~must shall~~ receive priority.

63 (b) Exhibits a substantial deficiency in early math skills
64 based upon the results of the most recent progress monitoring
65 administered pursuant to s. 1008.25(9), has a substantial
66 deficiency in mathematics or the characteristics of dyscalculia
67 as identified under s. 1008.25(6)(a), or scored below a Level 3
68 on the most recent statewide, standardized Mathematics
69 assessment in the prior school year.

70 (3) PARENT AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PARTICIPATION.—

71 (a) For an eligible student to receive a scholarship
72 account, the student's parent must:

73 1. Submit an application to an eligible nonprofit
74 scholarship-funding organization by the deadline established by
75 such organization; and

76 2. Use the administrator's system to make direct purchases
77 or submit eligible expenses to the eligible nonprofit
78 scholarship-funding organization for reimbursement of qualifying
79 expenditures, which may include:

80 a. Instructional materials.

81 b. Curriculum. As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term
82 "curriculum" means a complete course of study for a particular
83 content area or grade level, including any required supplemental
84 materials and associated online instruction.

85 c. Tuition and fees for part-time tutoring services
86 provided by a person who holds a valid Florida educator's
87 certificate pursuant to s. 1012.56, a person who holds a

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88 baccalaureate or graduate degree in the subject area, a person
89 who holds an adjunct teaching certificate pursuant to s.
90 1012.57, ~~or~~ a person who has demonstrated a mastery of subject
91 area knowledge pursuant to s. 1012.56(5), a person who has
92 earned a micro-credential pursuant to s. 1003.485, or, for a
93 prekindergarten student, or a person who holds a credential
94 under s. 1002.55(3)(c)1. or holds an educational credential
95 pursuant to s. 1002.55(4)(a) or (b).

96 d. Fees for summer education programs designed to improve
97 reading, literacy, or mathematics skills.

98 e. Fees for after-school education programs designed to
99 improve reading, literacy, or mathematics skills.

100
101 A provider of any services receiving payments pursuant to this
102 subparagraph may not share any moneys from the scholarship with,
103 or provide a refund or rebate of any moneys from such
104 scholarship to, the parent or participating student in any
105 manner. A parent, student, or provider of any services may not
106 bill an insurance company, Medicaid, or any other agency for the
107 same services that are paid for using scholarship funds.

108 (4) ADMINISTRATOR ADMINISTRATION.—An eligible nonprofit
109 scholarship-funding organization as defined under s. 1002.395(2)
110 must be the administrator and participating in the Florida Tax
111 Credit Scholarship Program established by s. 1002.395 may
112 establish scholarship accounts for eligible students in
113 accordance with the requirements of eligible nonprofit
114 scholarship-funding organizations under this chapter.

115 (6) SCHOOL DISTRICT AND PRIVATE PREKINDERGARTEN EDUCATION
116 OBLIGATIONS; PARENTAL OPTIONS.—

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117 (a) ~~Each By September 30, the school district and private~~
 118 ~~prekindergarten provider~~ shall notify the parent of each
 119 eligible student of the process to request and receive a
 120 scholarship, subject to available funds, when providing results
 121 from the standardized coordinated screening and progress
 122 monitoring pursuant to s. 1008.25(9)(c).

123 (7) ACCOUNT FUNDING AND PAYMENT.—

124 (e) The eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization
 125 may develop a system that permits eligible students to use
 126 program funds to make direct purchases of qualifying
 127 expenditures for payment of scholarship funds by funds transfer,
 128 including, but not limited to, debit cards, electronic payment
 129 cards, or any other means of payment that the department deems
 130 to be commercially viable or cost-effective. A student's
 131 scholarship award may not be reduced for debit card or
 132 electronic payment fees. Commodities or services related to the
 133 development of such a system must ~~shall~~ be procured by
 134 competitive solicitation unless they are purchased from a state
 135 term contract pursuant to s. 287.056.

136 Section 2. Paragraphs (a), (f), and (g) of subsection (1),
 137 subsections (2) and (3), paragraphs (f), (i), and (j) of
 138 subsection (4), and subsections (5) and (6) of section 1003.485,
 139 Florida Statutes, are amended, and a new paragraph (n) is added
 140 to subsection (4) of that section, to read:

141 1003.485 The New Worlds Learning Reading Initiative.—

142 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

143 (a) "Administrator" means the University of Florida
 144 Lastinger Center for Learning ~~a state university registered with~~
 145 ~~the department under s. 1002.395(15)(i) and designated to~~

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146 ~~administer the initiative under paragraph (3)(a).~~

147 (f) "Initiative" means the New Worlds Learning Reading
 148 Initiative.

149 (g) "Micro-credential" means evidence-based professional
 150 learning development activities grounded in the science of
 151 reading or best practices for mathematics instruction which are
 152 competency-based, personalized, and on-demand. Educators must
 153 demonstrate their competence via evidence submitted and reviewed
 154 by trained evaluators.

155 (2) NEW WORLDS LEARNING READING INITIATIVE; PURPOSE.—The
 156 purpose of the New Worlds Learning Reading Initiative
 157 established under the department is to instill a love of
 158 learning reading by providing high-quality, free books to
 159 students in prekindergarten through grade 5 who are reading
 160 below grade level and to improve the literacy and mathematics
 161 skills of students in prekindergarten through grade 12. The New
 162 Worlds Learning Reading Initiative shall consist of:

163 (a) The program established under this section to provide
 164 high-quality, free books to students.

165 (b) The New Worlds Scholarship Program under s. 1002.411.

166 (c) The New Worlds Scholar program under s. 1008.365, which
 167 rewards high school students who instill a love of reading and
 168 improve the literacy skills of students in kindergarten through
 169 grade 3.

170 (d) The New Worlds micro-credential program, established
 171 under this section, which emphasizes strong core instruction and
 172 a tiered model of reading interventions for students to improve
 173 reading or mathematics struggling readers.

174 (e) The New Worlds Tutoring Program to support school

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districts and schools in improving student achievement in reading and mathematics.

(3) DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES.—The department shall:

~~(a) Designate an administrator to implement the initiative and to receive funding as provided in this section. The administrator must have an academic innovation institution with extensive experience in:~~

~~1. Conducting academic research in early literacy instruction.~~

~~2. Implementing online delivery of early learning and literacy training for educators nationally.~~

~~3. Developing online support materials that assist parents and caregivers in developing early literacy skills.~~

~~4. Conducting fundraising and public awareness campaigns to support the development and growth of evidence-based educational initiatives that support learning at home and in schools.~~

~~(a)(b)~~ Publish information about the initiative and tax credits available under subsection (5) on its website, including the process for a taxpayer to select the administrator as the recipient of funding through a tax credit.

~~(b)(c)~~ Beginning September 30, 2022, and Annually thereafter, report on its website the number of students participating in the initiative in each school district, information from the annual financial report submitted under paragraph (4)(j), and the academic achievement and learning gains, as applicable, of participating students based on data provided by school districts as authorized permitted under s. 1002.22. The department shall establish a date by which the administrator and each school district must annually provide the

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data necessary to complete the report.

(c) Provide the administrator with progress-monitoring data for all eligible prekindergarten through grade 12 students within 30 days after the close of each progress-monitoring period.

(4) ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.—The administrator shall:

(f) Provide professional learning development and resources to teachers which ~~that~~ correlate with the books provided through the initiative.

(i) Administer the early literacy micro-credential program established under this section, which must include components on content, student learning, pedagogy, and professional learning development and must build on a strong foundation of scientifically researched and evidence-based reading instructional and intervention programs that incorporate explicit, systematic, and sequential approaches to teaching phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text comprehension and incorporate decodable or phonetic text instructional strategies, as identified by the Just Read, Florida! Office, pursuant to s. 1001.215(7).

1. At a minimum, the micro-credential curriculum must be designed specifically for instructional personnel in prekindergarten through grade 3 based upon the strategies and techniques identified in s. 1002.59 and address foundational literacy skills of students in grades 4 through 12. The micro-credential curriculum may also include best practices for mathematics instruction.

2. The micro-credential must be competency based and

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designed for eligible instructional personnel to complete the credentialing process in no more than 60 hours, in an online format. The micro-credential may be delivered in an in-person format. Eligible instructional personnel may receive the micro-credential once competency is demonstrated even if it is before ~~prior to~~ the completion of 60 hours.

3. The micro-credential must be available by December 31, 2022, at no cost, to instructional personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2); prekindergarten instructors as specified in ss. 1002.55, 1002.61, and 1002.63; and child care personnel as defined in ss. 402.302(3) and 1002.88(1)(e).

(j) Annually submit to the department an annual financial report that includes, at a minimum, the amount of eligible contributions received by the administrator; the amount spent on each activity required by this subsection, including administrative expenses; the number of micro-credentials and reading endorsements earned; and the number of students and households served under each component of the initiative, by district, including the means by which additional literacy or mathematics support was provided to students.

(n) Administer the New Worlds Tutoring Program by:

1. Establishing a process by which school districts may apply to receive grant funds or additional services to support the implementation of tutoring programs in their respective districts. Contingent upon available funds, the administrator shall establish agreements with each participating school district to provide program funds or direct services for additional literacy or mathematics support to, at a minimum, prekindergarten through grade 5 students enrolled in a public

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school who have a substantial deficiency in reading or mathematics in accordance with s. 1008.25.

a. Program funds may be used for stipends for in-person or virtual tutors during the school day, before and after school, or during a summer program; licenses for computerized or automated literacy tutoring software that provides each student with real-time interventions that are based in science of reading principles or mathematics instructional best practices and individually tailored to the needs and ability of each student; professional learning for tutors participating in the program; or curriculum, resources, and high quality materials necessary to implement explicit and systematic instructional strategies for tutoring.

b. The administrator shall establish minimum standards that a school district must meet in order to participate and to receive program funds. At a minimum, these standards must address: appropriate group sizes for tutoring sessions; the frequency and duration of tutoring sessions; minimum staffing qualifications for tutors; the use of ongoing, informal and formal assessments to target instructional interventions; and prioritization strategies for tutoring students within participating districts.

2. Providing best practice science of reading guidelines for districts in consultation with the Just Read, Florida! Office.

3. Providing technical assistance and recommending professional learning to districts.

4. Assisting districts in reviewing tutoring programs, professional learning programs, curriculum, and resources to

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291 ensure they adhere to the science of reading or best practices
 292 in mathematics.

293 5. Providing an annual report to the President of the
 294 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the
 295 Department of Education summarizing district use of the program
 296 funds and known student outcomes as a result of participating in
 297 the program.

298 (5) NEW WORLDS LEARNING ~~READING~~ INITIATIVE TAX CREDITS;
 299 APPLICATIONS, TRANSFERS, AND LIMITATIONS.—

300 (a) The tax credit cap amount is \$10 million for the 2021-
 301 2022 state fiscal year, \$30 million for the 2022-2023 state
 302 fiscal year, and \$60 million in each state fiscal year
 303 thereafter.

304 (b) Beginning October 1, 2021, a taxpayer may submit an
 305 application to the Department of Revenue for a tax credit or
 306 credits to be taken under one or more of s. 211.0252, s.
 307 212.1833, s. 220.1876, s. 561.1212, or s. 624.51056.

308 1. The taxpayer shall specify in the application each tax
 309 for which the taxpayer requests a credit and the applicable
 310 taxable year for a credit under s. 220.1876 or s. 624.51056 or
 311 the applicable state fiscal year for a credit under s. 211.0252,
 312 s. 212.1833, or s. 561.1212. For purposes of s. 220.1876, a
 313 taxpayer may apply for a credit to be used for a prior taxable
 314 year before the date the taxpayer is required to file a return
 315 for that year pursuant to s. 220.222. For purposes of s.
 316 624.51056, a taxpayer may apply for a credit to be used for a
 317 prior taxable year before the date the taxpayer is required to
 318 file a return for that prior taxable year pursuant to ss.
 319 624.509 and 624.5092. The Department of Revenue shall approve

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320 tax credits on a first-come, first-served basis and must obtain
 321 the division's approval before approving a tax credit under s.
 322 561.1212.

323 2. Within 10 days after approving or denying an
 324 application, the Department of Revenue shall provide a copy of
 325 its approval or denial letter to the administrator.

326 (c) If a tax credit approved under paragraph (b) is not
 327 fully used within the specified state fiscal year for credits
 328 under s. 211.0252, s. 212.1833, or s. 561.1212 or against taxes
 329 due for the specified taxable year for credits under s. 220.1876
 330 or s. 624.51056 because of insufficient tax liability on the
 331 part of the taxpayer, the unused amount must be carried forward
 332 for a period not to exceed 10 years. For purposes of s.
 333 220.1876, a credit carried forward may be used in a subsequent
 334 year after applying the other credits and unused carryovers in
 335 the order provided in s. 220.02(8).

336 (d) A taxpayer may not convey, transfer, or assign an
 337 approved tax credit or a carryforward tax credit to another
 338 entity unless all of the assets of the taxpayer are conveyed,
 339 assigned, or transferred in the same transaction. However, a tax
 340 credit under s. 211.0252, s. 212.1833, s. 220.1876, s. 561.1212,
 341 or s. 624.51056 may be conveyed, transferred, or assigned
 342 between members of an affiliated group of corporations if the
 343 type of tax credit under s. 211.0252, s. 212.1833, s. 220.1876,
 344 s. 561.1212, or s. 624.51056 remains the same. A taxpayer shall
 345 notify the Department of Revenue of its intent to convey,
 346 transfer, or assign a tax credit to another member within an
 347 affiliated group of corporations. The amount conveyed,
 348 transferred, or assigned is available to another member of the

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affiliated group of corporations upon approval by the Department of Revenue. The Department of Revenue shall obtain the division's approval before approving a conveyance, transfer, or assignment of a tax credit under s. 561.1212.

(e) Within any state fiscal year, a taxpayer may rescind all or part of a tax credit approved under paragraph (b). The amount rescinded shall become available for that state fiscal year to another eligible taxpayer approved by the Department of Revenue if the taxpayer receives notice from the Department of Revenue that the rescindment has been accepted by the Department of Revenue. The Department of Revenue must obtain the division's approval before accepting the rescindment of a tax credit under s. 561.1212. Any amount rescinded under this paragraph must become available to an eligible taxpayer on a first-come, first-served basis based on tax credit applications received after the date the rescindment is accepted by the Department of Revenue.

(f) Within 10 days after approving or denying the conveyance, transfer, or assignment of a tax credit under paragraph (d), or the rescindment of a tax credit under paragraph (e), the Department of Revenue shall provide a copy of its approval or denial letter to the administrator. The Department of Revenue shall also include the administrator on all letters or correspondence of acknowledgment for tax credits under s. 212.1833.

(g) For purposes of calculating the underpayment of estimated corporate income taxes under s. 220.34 and tax installment payments for taxes on insurance premiums or assessments under s. 624.5092, the final amount due is the amount after credits earned under s. 220.1876 or s. 624.51056

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for contributions to the administrator are deducted.

1. For purposes of determining if a penalty or interest under s. 220.34(2)(d)1. will be imposed for underpayment of estimated corporate income tax, a taxpayer may, after earning a credit under s. 220.1876, reduce any estimated payment in that taxable year by the amount of the credit.

2. For purposes of determining if a penalty under s. 624.5092 will be imposed, an insurer, after earning a credit under s. 624.51056 for a taxable year, may reduce any installment payment for such taxable year of 27 percent of the amount of the net tax due as reported on the return for the preceding year under s. 624.5092(2)(b) by the amount of the credit.

(6) ELIGIBILITY; NOTIFICATION; SCHOOL DISTRICT OBLIGATIONS.—

(a) A student in prekindergarten through grade 5 must be provided books through the initiative if the student is not yet reading on grade level, has a substantial reading deficiency identified under s. 1008.25(5)(a) ~~or (b)~~, has a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills based upon the results of the coordinated screening and progress monitoring under s. 1008.25(9), or scored below a Level 3 on the most recent ~~preceding year's~~ statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment under s. 1008.22.

(b) Each school district shall notify the parent of a student who meets the criteria under paragraph (a) that the student is eligible to receive books at no cost through the New Worlds Learning Reading Initiative and provide the parent with the application form developed by the administrator, which must

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allow for the selection of specific book topics or genres for the student.

(c) Once an eligible student is identified, the school district shall coordinate with the administrator to initiate book delivery on a monthly basis during the school year, which must begin no later than October and continue through at least June. ~~However, for the 2021-2022 school year only, delivery may begin no later than December 31, 2021, provided that no fewer than 9 books are delivered to each student before book deliveries begin for the 2022-2023 school year.~~

Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (5), paragraph (c) of subsection (6), and paragraph (c) of subsection (9) of section 1008.25, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1008.25 Public school student progression; student support; coordinated screening and progress monitoring; reporting requirements.—

(5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

(d) The parent of any student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading, as described in paragraph (a), must be notified in writing of the following:

1. That his or her child has been identified as having a substantial deficiency in reading, including a description and explanation, in terms understandable to the parent, of the exact nature of the student's difficulty in learning and lack of achievement in reading.

2. A description of the current services that are provided to the child.

3. A description of the proposed intensive interventions and supports that will be provided to the child that are

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designed to remediate the identified area of reading deficiency.

4. That if the child's reading deficiency is not remediated by the end of grade 3, the child must be retained unless he or she is exempt from mandatory retention for good cause.

5. Strategies, including multisensory strategies and programming, through a read-at-home plan the parent can use in helping his or her child succeed in reading. The read-at-home plan must provide access to the resources identified in paragraph (e) ~~(f)~~.

6. That the statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment is not the sole determiner of promotion and that additional evaluations, portfolio reviews, and assessments are available to the child to assist parents and the school district in knowing when a child is reading at or above grade level and ready for grade promotion.

7. The district's specific criteria and policies for a portfolio as provided in subparagraph (7)(b)4. and the evidence required for a student to demonstrate mastery of Florida's academic standards for English Language Arts. A school must immediately begin collecting evidence for a portfolio when a student in grade 3 is identified as being at risk of retention or upon the request of the parent, whichever occurs first.

8. The district's specific criteria and policies for midyear promotion. Midyear promotion means promotion of a retained student at any time during the year of retention once the student has demonstrated ability to read at grade level.

9. Information about the student's eligibility for the New Worlds Learning Reading Initiative under s. 1003.485 and the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts under s. 1002.411 and information on

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parent training modules and other reading engagement resources available through the initiative.

After initial notification, the school shall apprise the parent at least monthly of the student's progress in response to the intensive interventions and supports. Such communications must be in writing and must explain any additional interventions or supports that will be implemented to accelerate the student's progress if the interventions and supports already being implemented have not resulted in improvement.

(6) MATHEMATICS DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

(c) The parent of a student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in mathematics, as described in paragraph (a), must be notified in writing of the following:

1. That his or her child has been identified as having a substantial deficiency in mathematics, including a description and explanation, in terms understandable to the parent, of the exact nature of the student's difficulty in learning and lack of achievement in mathematics.

2. A description of the current services that are provided to the child.

3. A description of the proposed intensive interventions and supports that will be provided to the child that are designed to remediate the identified area of mathematics deficiency.

4. Strategies, including multisensory strategies and programming, through a home-based plan the parent can use in helping his or her child succeed in mathematics. The home-based plan must provide access to the resources identified in

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paragraph (d) ~~(e)~~.

After the initial notification, the school shall apprise the parent at least monthly of the student's progress in response to the intensive interventions and supports. Such communications must be in writing and must explain any additional interventions or supports that will be implemented to accelerate the student's progress if the interventions and supports already being implemented have not resulted in improvement.

(9) COORDINATED SCREENING AND PROGRESS MONITORING SYSTEM.—

(c) To facilitate timely interventions and supports pursuant to subsection (4), the system must provide results from the first two administrations of the progress monitoring to a student's teacher or prekindergarten instructor within 1 week and to the student's parent within 2 weeks after ~~of~~ the administration of the progress monitoring. Delivery of results from the comprehensive, end-of-year progress monitoring ELA assessment for grades 3 through 10 and Mathematics assessment for grades 3 through 8 must be in accordance with s. 1008.22(7)(h).

1. A student's results from the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system must be recorded in a written, easy-to-comprehend individual student report. Each school district shall provide a parent secure access to his or her child's individual student reports through a web-based portal as part of its student information system. Each early learning coalition shall provide parents the individual student report in a format determined by state board rule.

2. In addition to the information under subparagraph (a)5.,

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the report must also include parent resources that explain the purpose of progress monitoring, assist the parent in interpreting progress monitoring results, and support informed parent involvement. Parent resources may include personalized video formats.

3. The department shall annually update school districts and early learning coalitions on new system features and functionality and collaboratively identify with school districts and early learning coalitions strategies for meaningfully reporting to parents results from the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system. The department shall develop ways to increase the utilization, by instructional staff and parents, of student assessment data and resources.

4. An individual student report must be provided in a printed format upon a parent's request.

Section 4. Section 211.0252, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

211.0252 Credit for contributions to the New Worlds Learning Reading Initiative.—Beginning January 1, 2022, there is allowed a credit of 100 percent of an eligible contribution made to the New Worlds Learning Reading Initiative under s. 1003.485 against any tax due under s. 211.02 or s. 211.025. However, the combined credit allowed under this section and s. 211.0251 may not exceed 50 percent of the tax due on the return on which the credit is taken. If the combined credit allowed under this section and s. 211.0251 exceeds 50 percent of the tax due on the return, the credit must first be taken under s. 211.0251. Any remaining liability must be taken under this section, but may not exceed 50 percent of the tax due. For purposes of the

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distributions of tax revenue under s. 211.06, the department shall disregard any tax credits allowed under this section to ensure that any reduction in tax revenue received which is attributable to the tax credits results only in a reduction in distributions to the General Revenue Fund. Section 1003.485 applies to the credit authorized by this section.

Section 5. Section 212.1833, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

212.1833 Credit for contributions to the New Worlds Learning Reading Initiative.—Beginning January 1, 2022, there is allowed a credit of 100 percent of an eligible contribution made to the New Worlds Learning Reading Initiative under s. 1003.485 against any tax imposed by the state and due under this chapter from a direct pay permitholder as a result of the direct pay permit held pursuant to s. 212.183. For purposes of the dealer's credit granted for keeping prescribed records, filing timely tax returns, and properly accounting and remitting taxes under s. 212.12, the amount of tax due used to calculate the credit shall include any eligible contribution made to the New Worlds Learning Reading Initiative from a direct pay permitholder. For purposes of the distributions of tax revenue under s. 212.20, the department shall disregard any tax credits allowed under this section to ensure that any reduction in tax revenue received which is attributable to the tax credits results only in a reduction in distributions to the General Revenue Fund. Section 1003.485 applies to the credit authorized by this section. A dealer who claims a tax credit under this section must file his or her tax returns and pay his or her taxes by electronic means under s. 213.755.

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581 Section 6. Subsection (1) of section 220.1876, Florida
 582 Statutes, is amended to read:
 583 220.1876 Credit for contributions to the New Worlds
 584 Learning Reading Initiative.—
 585 (1) For taxable years beginning on or after January 1,
 586 2021, there is allowed a credit of 100 percent of an eligible
 587 contribution made to the New Worlds Learning Reading Initiative
 588 under s. 1003.485 against any tax due for a taxable year under
 589 this chapter after the application of any other allowable
 590 credits by the taxpayer. An eligible contribution must be made
 591 to the New Worlds Learning Reading Initiative on or before the
 592 date the taxpayer is required to file a return pursuant to s.
 593 220.222. The credit granted by this section shall be reduced by
 594 the difference between the amount of federal corporate income
 595 tax, taking into account the credit granted by this section, and
 596 the amount of federal corporate income tax without application
 597 of the credit granted by this section.
 598 Section 7. Section 561.1212, Florida Statutes, is amended
 599 to read:
 600 561.1212 Credit for contributions to the New Worlds
 601 Learning Reading Initiative.—Beginning January 1, 2022, there is
 602 allowed a credit of 100 percent of an eligible contribution made
 603 to the New Worlds Learning Reading Initiative under s. 1003.485
 604 against any tax due under s. 563.05, s. 564.06, or s. 565.12,
 605 except excise taxes imposed on wine produced by manufacturers in
 606 this state from products grown in this state. However, a credit
 607 allowed under this section may not exceed 90 percent of the tax
 608 due on the return on which the credit is taken. For purposes of
 609 the distributions of tax revenue under ss. 561.121 and

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610 564.06(10), the division shall disregard any tax credits allowed
 611 under this section to ensure that any reduction in tax revenue
 612 received which is attributable to the tax credits results only
 613 in a reduction in distributions to the General Revenue Fund. The
 614 provisions of s. 1003.485 apply to the credit authorized by this
 615 section.
 616 Section 8. Subsection (1) of section 624.51056, Florida
 617 Statutes, is amended to read:
 618 624.51056 Credit for contributions to the New Worlds
 619 Learning Reading Initiative.—
 620 (1) For taxable years beginning on or after January 1,
 621 2021, there is allowed a credit of 100 percent of an eligible
 622 contribution made to the New Worlds Learning Reading Initiative
 623 under s. 1003.485 against any tax due for a taxable year under
 624 s. 624.509(1) after deducting from such tax deductions for
 625 assessments made pursuant to s. 440.51; credits for taxes paid
 626 under ss. 175.101 and 185.08; credits for income taxes paid
 627 under chapter 220; and the credit allowed under s. 624.509(5),
 628 as such credit is limited by s. 624.509(6). An eligible
 629 contribution must be made to the New Worlds Learning Reading
 630 Initiative on or before the date the taxpayer is required to
 631 file a return pursuant to ss. 624.509 and 624.5092. An insurer
 632 claiming a credit against premium tax liability under this
 633 section is not required to pay any additional retaliatory tax
 634 levied under s. 624.5091 as a result of claiming such credit.
 635 Section 624.5091 does not limit such credit in any manner.
 636 Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
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1/17/24
Meeting Date

7038
Bill Number or Topic

Education
Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Michael Barrett Phone (850) 205-6823

Address 201 W. Park Ave Email mbarrett@flaeb.org
Street

Tallahassee FL 32301
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

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SB 2028

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

1/17/24
Meeting Date

Senate Ed
Committee

Name

Shan Goff

Phone

850-544-6128

Address

215 S Monroe St
Street

Email

shan@escalined.org

City

Tallahassee

State

FL

Zip

32301

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☐

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☒

In Support

☐

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Fund for Florida's Future

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

1/17/24

Meeting Date

Ed Prek-12

Committee

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
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70390

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name **Sarah Massey**

Phone **850.545.0543**

Address **136 S. Bronough St**

Street

Email

Tallahassee

FL

32301

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Florida Chamber of Commerce

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
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(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
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S-001 (08/10/2021)

412R

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

7038

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Meeting Date

1/17/24 8³⁰
Education Pre-K

Committee

Name

Karen Mazzola, Florida PTA

Phone

407-855-7604

Address

1747 Orlando Central PKWY

Email

vp.education@floridapta.org

Street

Orlando

FL

32809

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☐

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:



In Support

☐

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:☐I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.☐I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

FL PTA

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022JointRules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](https://www.flsenate.gov/2020-2022JointRules.pdf)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

BILL: CS/SB 820

INTRODUCER: Education Pre-K -12 Committee and Senator Grall

SUBJECT: Child Care and Early Learning Providers

DATE: January 18, 2024

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Sabitsch	Bouck	ED	Fav/CS
2.			FT	
3.			AP	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 820 provides a tax exemption for preschools, various child care tax credits, modifies requirements for licensing of child care providers, and affects homeowners insurance for large family child care homes. Specifically, the bill:

- Modifies the existing exemptions from special assessments levied by municipalities to include preschools.
- Provides various tax credits for corporations and certain taxpayers who operate a child care facility or make contributions to child care facilities on behalf of employees for certain taxes including income tax, insurance premium tax, severance taxes on oil and gas production, alcoholic beverages tax, and sales tax paid by direct pay permit holders.
- Provides an exemption from licensing for certain entities operating a child care facility solely attended by its employees.
- Modifies requirements related to licensing of child care facilities by the Department of Children and Families including limitations on violations, implementation of abbreviated inspections, background screening, and personnel training.
- Removes annual notifications that child care facilities are required to provide parents regarding immunization and leaving children in cars.
- Requires county commissions to annually affirm continued services for locally managed licensing of child care facilities.
- Clarifies cancelation and coverage from residential property insurance for large family child care homes.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2024, except where otherwise specified.

II. Present Situation:

The present situation is presented in Section III under the Effect of Proposed Changes.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Special Assessments

Present Situation

There are 67 county governments and over 400 municipal governments. Municipalities levy and collect special assessments to fund capital improvements and municipal services including but not limited to: fire protection, emergency medical services, garbage disposal, sewer improvement, street improvement, and parking facilities. Small municipalities with a population fewer than 100 persons may use special assessments to fund special security and crime prevention services and facilities.¹

Property owned or occupied by a religious institution, a public or private elementary, middle, or high school, or by a governmentally financed, insured, or subsidized housing facility that is used primarily for persons who are elderly or disabled is exempt from any special assessments levied by a municipality.² No specific exemption exists for preschools. There are over 8,500 licensed preschools in Florida.³

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill modifies s. 170.201, F.S., to add any public or private preschool to those properties that are exempt from special assessments levied by local governments and municipalities. The bill defines a preschool as a licensed child care facility serving children under five years of age.

Tax Collections and Credits

Present Situation

Early Learning Tax Incentive

Beginning in 1998, a corporate income taxpayer or insurance premium taxpayer was authorized to take a credit against their tax liability for costs associated with the establishment of a child care facility or for costs paid toward child care on behalf of their employees. The provision expired in 2008.⁴ Additionally, there is no tax credit program for any taxpayer of severance tax, sales and use tax, corporate income tax, insurance premium tax, or alcoholic beverage tax to receive credit for contributions made to a child care facility on behalf of employees.

¹ Section 170.201, F.S.

² Section 170.201(2), F.S.

³ Department of Children and Families, *Child Care Provider List, 11-1-2023*, available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2023-11/Public%20-%202023-11-1%20-%20Statewide.pdf> (last visited Jan. 9, 2024).

⁴ Section 220.19, F.S. (2008).

Corporate Income Tax

Florida imposes a 5.5 percent tax on the taxable income of certain corporations and financial institutions doing business in Florida.⁵ Corporate income tax is remitted to the Department of Revenue (DOR) and distributed to General Revenue. Net collections of corporate income tax in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 were \$5.2 billion.⁶

Insurance Premium Tax

Florida imposes a 1.75 percent tax on most Florida insurance premiums.⁷ Insurance premium taxes are paid by insurance companies under ch. 624, F.S., and are remitted to the DOR. These revenues are distributed to General Revenue with additional distributions to the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund, the Police & Firefighters Premium Tax Trust Fund, and the Emergency Management Preparedness & Assistance Trust Fund. Net collections of insurance premium taxes in Fiscal Year 2023-2023 were \$1.38 billion with distributions to General Revenue of \$1.05 billion.⁸

Severance Taxes on Oil and Gas Production

Oil and gas production severance taxes are imposed on persons who sever oil or gas in Florida for sale, transport, storage, profit, or commercial use.⁹ These taxes are remitted to the DOR and distributed to General Revenue with additional distributions to the Minerals Trust Fund and to the counties where production occurred. Receipts from the severance taxes on oil and gas are estimated to be \$3.2 million in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 with distributions to General Revenue of \$2.0 million.¹⁰

Sales Taxes Paid by Direct Pay Permit Holders

Section 212.183, F.S., authorizes the DOR to establish a process for the self-accrual of sales taxes due under ch. 212, F.S. The process involves the DOR granting a direct pay permit to a taxpayer, who then pays the taxes directly to the DOR.¹¹

Alcoholic Beverage Taxes

Florida imposes excise taxes on malt beverages, wines, and other beverages.¹² The taxes are due from manufacturers, distributors and vendors of malt beverages, and from manufacturers and

⁵ Sections 220.11(2) and 220.63(2), F.S.

⁶ Office of Economic and Demographic Research, Memo, July 31, 2023, *available at* http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/generalrevenue/CITNetCollections_FY2022-23.pdf (last visited Jan 11, 2024).

⁷ Section 624.509, F.S. (Different tax rates apply to wet marine and transportation insurance, self-insurance, and annuity premiums.)

⁸ Florida Revenue Estimating Conference, *2023 Florida Tax Handbook* (Oct. 2023), *available at* <http://edr.state.fl.us/content/revenues/reports/tax-handbook/taxhandbook2023.pdf> (last visited Jan. 11, 2024).

⁹ Sections 211.02(1) and 211.025, F.S.

¹⁰ *Supra* note 8.

¹¹ Section 212.183, F.S., and rule 12A-1.0911, F.A.C. Direct pay permit holders include: dealers who annually make purchases in excess of \$10 million per year in any county; dealers who annually purchase at least \$100,000 of tangible personal property, including maintenance and repairs for their own use; dealers who purchase promotional materials whose ultimate use is unknown at purchase; eligible air carriers, vessels, railroads, and motor vehicles engaged in interstate and foreign commerce; and dealers who lease realty from a number of independent property owners.

¹² Sections 563.05, 564.06, and 565.12, F.S.

distributors of wine, liquor, and other specified alcoholic beverages. Taxes are remitted to the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (Division) in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR).

The Division is responsible for supervising the conduct, management, and operation of the manufacturing, packaging, distribution, and sale of all alcoholic beverages in Florida.¹³ Distributions of the excise taxes on alcoholic beverages are made to the General Revenue Fund, the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Trust Fund, and Viticulture Trust Fund. Collections of alcoholic beverage taxes were \$317 million in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 with distributions to General Revenue of \$311 million.¹⁴

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill creates s. 211.0254, F.S., to allow a child care tax credit against any tax due for oil and gas production under ss. 211.02 and 211.025, F.S., and together with a credit to scholarship funding organizations, for the New Worlds Reading Initiative, and for other charitable organizations, provides a maximum of up to 50 percent of the tax due on the return for which the credit is taken and provides priorities when other tax credits are being taken.

The bill creates s. 212.1835, F.S., to allow a child care tax credit against any tax imposed from a direct pay permit holder and provides certain requirements including filing and paying taxes electronically.

The bill modifies s. 220.19, F.S., to allow for child care tax credits permitted under s. 402.261, F.S., created by the bill and provides requirements and limitations regarding those tax credits. The bill removes provisions related to the carry forward of unused credits and repayment of child care facility start-up credits.

The bill creates s. 402.261, F.S., to allow a child care tax credit for up to 50 percent of the startup costs for a taxpayer who operates a child care facility for the taxpayer's employees. The bill provides definitions and restrictions. The bill adds provisions related to the carry forward of unused child care tax credits and repayment of child care facility start-up credits. The credit is against tax due under the following tax liabilities:

- Corporate income tax;
- Insurance premium tax;
- Severance taxes on oil and gas production;
- Alcoholic beverage tax on beer, wine, and spirits; or
- Self-accrued sales tax liability of direct pay permit holders.

The maximum amount of credit a taxpayer may be granted is based on the number of employees as follows:

- One-19 employees, maximum credit of \$1 million.
- Twenty-250 employees, maximum credit of \$500,000.
- Two hundred fifty one or more employees, maximum credit of \$250,000.

¹³ Section 561.02, F.S.

¹⁴ *Supra* note 8.

The bill allows for a taxpayer who operates an eligible child care facility for the taxpayer's employees a credit of up to \$300 per month for each eligible child enrolled in the facility. The bill also allows for a taxpayer who makes payment to an eligible child care facility in the name and for the benefit of an employee of the taxpayer is allowed a credit of 100 percent of the amount of payment up to \$3,600 per child. The maximum amount of credit a taxpayer may be granted for each such credit is based on the number of employees as follows:

- One-19 employees, maximum credit is \$50,000
- Twenty-250 employees, maximum credit is \$500,000
- Two hundred fifty one or more employees, maximum credit is \$1 million

The bill caps the maximum annual tax credit amount of \$5 million in each state fiscal year, beginning 2024-2025, and provides provisions for jointly operated eligible child care centers.

The bill allows taxpayers to make application for the tax credits beginning October 1, 2024, and outlines the requirements of the application process to be developed by the Department of Revenue (DOR), priority of applications, timelines for review of applications with notices of approval or denial, and provides the DOR with rulemaking authority.

The bill creates s. 561.1214, F.S., to allow child care tax credits beginning January 1, 2025, for any excise tax due for beer, wine, and liquor, except for excise taxes imposed on wine produced by manufactures in the state from products grown in the state. The credit allowed may not exceed 90 percent of the tax due on the return which the credit is taken.

The bill modifies s. 624.5107, F.S., to allow a child care tax credit beginning on or after January 1, 2025, for any excise tax on insurance premiums due under s. 624.509, F.S. and provides restrictions on the credit. The bill removes the provision allowing to carry forward the credit four up to five years and the provision for repayment of a credit for child care facility start-up cost if the facility does not operate for at least five years.

The bill modifies s. 624.509, F.S., to include child care tax credits under s. 624.5107, F.S. related to premium tax on insurers and provides an order in which deductions may be taken.

Finally, the bill provides the DOR with authority to adopt emergency rules to implement the bill and allow any emergency rules to be effective for six months following adoption and may be renewed. The provision is effective upon becoming law and expires on July 1, 2025.

Insurance

Present Situation

Homeowners' insurance is a specific type of property insurance. Homeowners' insurance covers damage or loss by theft and against perils which can include fire, and storm damage. It also may insure the owner for accidental injury or death for which the owner may be legally responsible. Mortgage lenders usually require homeowners' insurance as part of the mortgage terms.¹⁵

¹⁵ Florida Office of Insurance Regulation, *Homeowners' Insurance*, available at <https://floir.com/Sections/PandC/Homeowners/default.aspx> (last visited Jan. 11, 2024).

While homeowners' insurance can specifically refer to the insurance of a house, it also encompasses the insurance of other types of structures associated with personal residences, including tenants (renters) and condominium unit owners.¹⁶

Florida recognizes that family day care homes fulfill a vital role in providing child care and that residential property insurance coverage should not be canceled, denied, or fail to be renewed solely on the basis of the family day care services at the residence. The potential liability of residential property insurers is substantially increased by the operation of child care services on the premises. Contractual liabilities that arise in connection with the operation of the family day care home are excluded from residential property insurance policies unless they are specifically included in such coverage.¹⁷

In addition to family day care services, there are also over 400 large family day care services in Florida.¹⁸ A large family day care home is an occupied residence in which child care is regularly provided for children from at least two unrelated families where there is payment for the care provided and which has at least two full-time child care personnel on the premise during hours of operation.¹⁹ The insurance protections for family day care homes do not extend to large family day care homes.²⁰

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill modifies s. 627.70161, F.S., to add specific language to include large family child care homes to existing law to prevent cancelation of the residential property insurance solely on the basis of offering those services at a residence, and to include “large family child care homes” in language stating the liabilities arising out of such services are excluded from property insurance policies specifically included in that coverage. The bill provides a definition of “large family child care home,” which is consistent with the definition in law.

Child Care Personnel

Present Situation

The child-care licensing program is a component of the services provided by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The program is accountable for the statewide licensure of Florida's child-care facilities, specialized child-care facilities for the care of mildly ill children, large family child-care homes and licensure or registration of family day care homes. The purpose of the program is to ensure a healthy and safe environment for the children in child-care settings and to improve the quality of their care. The DCF ensures that licensing requirements are met through on-going inspections of child-care facilities and homes.²¹

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Section 627.70161, F.S.

¹⁸ Department of Children and Families, *Child Care Provider List, 1-11-2024*, available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2023-03/Public%20-%202023-3-1%20-%20Statewide.pdf> (last visited Jan. 11, 2024).

¹⁹ Section 402.302(11), F.S.

²⁰ Section 627.70161, F.S.

²¹ DCF, *About Child Care Licensure*, <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-care/about-child-care-licensure> (last visited Jan 15, 2024).

Florida law provides for any county whose licensing standards meet or exceed the state minimum standards to designate by ordinance, a local licensing agency in the county. A county choosing not to administer its own child-care licensing programs, or whose minimum standards do not exceed state minimum standards, is licensed by DCF.²²

Currently, DCF child-care licensing staff are responsible for the inspection and licensure of child-care facilities and homes in 63 out of 67 counties. Four counties have elected to regulate licensing of child-care facilities and homes, those counties are Broward, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and Sarasota.²³

The DCF establishes minimum standards for child care personnel that include minimum requirements for good moral character based upon background screening.²⁴ This screening must be conducted using the level 2 standards for screening which include employment history checks, a search of criminal history records, sexual predator and sexual offender registries, and the child abuse and neglect registry of any state in which the current or prospective child care personnel resided during the preceding 5 years.²⁵

The DCF also establishes minimum training requirements for child care personnel. The DCF has adopted the Child Care Facility Handbook to describe these requirements in detail.²⁶ The minimum standards for training must ensure that all child care personnel take an approved 40-clock-hour introductory course in child care covering the following topic areas:²⁷

- State and local rules and regulations which govern child care.
- Health, safety, and nutrition.
- Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.
- Child development, including typical and atypical language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills development.
- Observation of developmental behaviors, including using a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to determine the child's developmental age level.
- Specialized areas, including computer technology for professional and classroom use and early literacy and language development of children from birth to 5 years of age, as determined by the DCF, for owner-operators and child care personnel of a child care facility.
- Developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder and Down syndrome, and early identification, use of available state and local resources, classroom integration, and positive behavioral supports for children with developmental disabilities.²⁸

²² Section 402.306, F.S.

²³ DCF, *About Child Care Licensure*, <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-care/about-child-care-licensure> (last visited Jan 15, 2024).

²⁴ Section. 405.305(15), F.S.

²⁵ Section. 435.04, F.S.

²⁶ Florida Department of Children and Families, *Child Care Facility Handbook, October 2021*, available at https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/FacilityHandbook_0.pdf (last visited Jan. 11, 2024).

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ Section. 402.305, F.S.

The DCF is required to evaluate or contract for an evaluation to determine the status of and means to improve staff training requirements and testing procedures. The evaluation must be conducted every 2 years. The evaluation must include, but is not be limited to, determining:²⁹

- The availability, quality, scope, and sources of current staff training.
- The need for specialty training.
- Ways to increase in-service training.
- Ways to increase the accessibility, quality, and cost-effectiveness of current and proposed staff training.

The DCF also establishes minimum standards for:

- Sanitary and safety conditions, first aid treatment, emergency procedures, and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The minimum standards must require that at least one staff person trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, as evidenced by current documentation of course completion, must be present at all times that children are present.³⁰
- Admissions and recordkeeping. Each year, each child care facility must provide parents of children enrolled in the facility detailed information regarding:
 - The causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus and the importance of immunizing their children.
 - The potential for a distracted adult to fail to drop off a child at the facility and instead leave the child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at the adult's destination.³¹

Each child care facility is required to have a plan of activities which must ensure that each child care facility has and implements a written plan for the daily provision of varied activities and active and quiet play opportunities appropriate to the age of the child.³²

DCF is required to develop minimum standards for specialized child care facilities for the care of mildly ill children.³³

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill amends s. 402.305, F.S., to modify minimum standards for child care facilities licensing standards. Specifically, the bill:

- Modifies the licensing standards to allow the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to create up to two classification levels for violations that relate directly to health and safety and prohibits any additional classification levels. The bill clarifies that violations of standards not directly related to health and safety can only be addressed through technical assistance.
- The bill requires the DCF to complete the background screening for personnel and provide results to the child care facility within five business days. Upon failure to do so, the bill requires the DCF to issue the current or prospective child care personnel a 45-day provisional hire status while all required information is being requested and the DCF is awaiting results. During the 45-day period, the current or prospective child care personnel must be under the direct supervision of a screened and trained staff member when in contact with children.

²⁹ Section. 402.305(2), F.S.

³⁰ Section. 402.305(7), F.S.

³¹ Section. 402.305(9), F.S.

³² Section. 402.305(13), F.S.

³³ Section. 402.305(17), F.S.

- Requires the 40-clock-hour introductory course in child care that must be taken by child care personnel include online training coursework that will meet minimum training standards for child care personnel and provided at no cost by the DCF.
- Clarifies that the child care personnel competency examination will be either in-person or online.
- Removes “an interdisciplinary approach to the study of children” as a requirement for the introductory course in child care.
- Limits periodic health examinations to child care facility drivers.
- Requires that the required training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation must be in-person training.
- Removes obsolete language related to pagers and beepers related to drop-in child care.
- Removes a requirement of child care facilities to provide parents with information related to flu shots in the months of August and September.
- Removes a requirement of child care facilities to provide parents during the months of April and September with information related to leaving children in a vehicle.
- Removes both the exception for health-related information for children served in a drop-in child care center as well as the required attestation by the child’s parent.
- Removes a requirement for a program to be implemented periodically by a child care facility to assist in preventing and avoiding physical and mental abuse.
- Removes a requirement for the DCF to develop standards for specialized child care facilities for the care of mildly ill children.

The bill modifies s. 402.306, F.S., regarding local licensing to require each county commission to affirm by majority vote annually the decision designate a local agency for child care licensing.

The bill modifies s. 402.3115, F.S., to include family day care homes and large family child care homes in the DCF’s plan to eliminate duplicative and unnecessary inspections of child care facilities and further defines that the DCF will implement the plan for a facility that meets the following conditions:

- Have been licensed for at least two consecutive years.
- Have not had a Class I violation for at least two consecutive years.
- Have not had more than three of the same Class 2 violations for at least two consecutive years.
- Have received at least two full onsite renewal inspections in the most recent two years.
- Do not have any current uncorrected violations.
- Do not have any open regulatory complaints or active child protective service investigations.

The bill requires the abbreviated inspection plan to be updated every five years to maintain and requires DCF to adopt rules and policies based on the recommendation required reporting.

The bill modifies s. 402.316, F.S. to provide an exemption from licensing, except for screening of personnel, for a taxpayer operated child care facility which is only attended by children who meet the definition of an eligible child under s. 402.261, F.S.

The bill modifies s. 1002.59, F.S. to update cross references.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

Section 5 of the bill provides limits on the allowable credits in a taxable year for a taxpayer operating an eligible childcare facility or making payments to a child care facility on behalf of an employee. For the provision limiting the maximum credits for a taxpayer operating a child care facility, the bill inverts the maximum credits to specify that the lower the number of employees the higher the exemption.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 170.201, 220.19, 402.305, 402.306, 402.3115, 402.316, 624.5107, 624.509, 627.70161, and 1002.59.

This bill creates the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 211.0254, 212.1835, 402.261, and 561.1214.

This bill creates an undesignated section of Florida law.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Education Pre-K - 12 Committee on January 17, 2024:

The committee substitute:

- Modifies the requirement under licensing standards for child care facilities that staff members must be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation to specify that the training must be in-person.
- Clarifies that the bill exempts from certain child care licensure provisions a child care facility that provides child care to eligible children defined in the bill.

B. Amendments:

None.



830618

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/17/2024	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Education Pre-K -12 (Grall) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with directory and title amendments)

Between lines 605 and 606
insert:

(a) Minimum standards must ~~shall~~ include requirements for sanitary and safety conditions, first aid treatment, emergency procedures, and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The minimum standards must ~~shall~~ require that at least one staff person trained in person in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, as evidenced by current documentation of course completion, ~~must~~ be



830618

11 present at all times that children are present.
12
13 ===== D I R E C T O R Y C L A U S E A M E N D M E N T =====
14 And the directory clause is amended as follows:
15 Delete line 441
16 and insert:
17 paragraphs (a), (e), and (f) of subsection (2), paragraphs (a)
18 and (c) of
19
20 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====
21 And the title is amended as follows:
22 Delete line 52
23 and insert:
24 conditions; providing an exception; revising minimum
25 standards for sanitation and safety of child care
26 facilities; making technical changes; deleting



846424

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/17/2024	.	
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	.	

The Committee on Education Pre-K -12 (Grall) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment

Delete lines 724 - 729
and insert:
church or parochial schools, or a child care facility that
solely provides child care to eligible children as defined in s.
402.261(1)(c), conducting regularly scheduled classes, courses
of study, or educational programs accredited by, or by a member
of, an organization which publishes and requires compliance with
its standards for health, safety, and sanitation.

By Senator Grall

29-00375A-24

2024820__

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to child care and early learning
 3 providers; amending s. 170.201, F.S.; providing an
 4 exemption for public and private preschools from
 5 specified special assessments levied by a
 6 municipality; defining the term "preschool"; creating
 7 s. 211.0254, F.S.; authorizing the use of credits
 8 against certain taxes beginning on a specified date;
 9 providing a limitation on such credits; providing
 10 construction; providing applicability; creating s.
 11 212.1835, F.S.; authorizing the use of credits against
 12 certain taxes beginning on a specified date;
 13 authorizing certain expenses and payments to count
 14 toward the tax due; providing construction; providing
 15 applicability; requiring electronic filing of returns
 16 and payment of taxes; amending s. 220.19, F.S.;
 17 authorizing the use of credits against certain taxes
 18 beginning on a specified date; revising obsolete
 19 provisions; authorizing certain taxpayers to use the
 20 credit in a specified manner; providing applicability;
 21 creating s. 402.261, F.S.; defining terms; authorizing
 22 certain taxpayers to receive tax credits for certain
 23 actions; providing requirements for such credits;
 24 specifying the maximum tax credit that may be granted;
 25 authorizing tax credits be carried forward; requiring
 26 repayment of tax credits under certain conditions and
 27 using a specified formula; requiring certain taxpayers
 28 to file specified returns and reports; requiring
 29 certain funds be redistributed; requiring taxpayers to

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30 submit applications beginning on a specified date to
 31 receive tax credits; requiring the application to
 32 include certain information; requiring the Department
 33 of Revenue to approve tax credits in a specified
 34 manner; prohibiting the transfer of a tax credit;
 35 providing an exception; requiring the department to
 36 approve certain transfers; requiring a specified
 37 approval before the transfer of certain credits;
 38 authorizing credits to be rescinded during a specified
 39 time period; requiring specified approval before
 40 certain credits may be rescinded; requiring rescinded
 41 credits to be made available for use in a specified
 42 manner; requiring the department to provide specified
 43 letters in a certain time period with certain
 44 information; authorizing the department to adopt
 45 rules; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; revising licensing
 46 standards for all licensed child care facilities and
 47 minimum standards and training requirements for child
 48 care personnel; requiring the Department of Children
 49 and Families to conduct specified screenings of child
 50 care personnel within a specified timeframe and issue
 51 provisional approval of such personnel under certain
 52 conditions; providing an exception; deleting
 53 provisions relating to drop-in child care; deleting
 54 provisions relating to educating parents and children
 55 about specified topics; deleting provisions relating
 56 to specialized child care facilities for the care of
 57 mildly ill children; amending s. 402.306, F.S.;
 58 requiring a county commission to annually affirm

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certain decisions; amending s. 402.3115, F.S.; expanding the types of providers to be considered when developing and implementing a plan to eliminate duplicative and unnecessary inspections; revising requirements for an abbreviated inspection plan for certain child care facilities; requiring the department to adopt rules; amending s. 402.316, F.S.; providing that certain child care facilities are exempt from specified requirements; creating s. 561.1214, F.S.; authorizing the use of credits against certain taxes beginning on a specified date; providing a limitation on such credits; providing applicability; providing construction; amending s. 624.5107, F.S.; authorizing the use of credits against certain taxes beginning on a specified date; providing a limitation; providing construction; providing applicability; amending s. 624.509, F.S.; revising the order in which certain credits and deductions may be taken to incorporate changes made by this act; amending s. 627.70161, F.S.; defining the term "large family child care home"; providing that specified insurance provisions apply to large family child care homes; amending s. 1002.59, F.S.; conforming cross-references; authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt emergency rules; providing for expiration; providing effective dates.

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

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Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 170.201, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

170.201 Special assessments.—

(2) Property owned or occupied by a religious institution and used as a place of worship or education; by a public or private preschool, elementary school, middle school, or high school; or by a governmentally financed, insured, or subsidized housing facility that is used primarily for persons who are elderly or disabled shall be exempt from any special assessment levied by a municipality to fund any service if the municipality so desires. As used in this subsection, the term "religious institution" means any church, synagogue, or other established physical place for worship at which nonprofit religious services and activities are regularly conducted and carried on and the term "governmentally financed, insured, or subsidized housing facility" means a facility that is financed by a mortgage loan made or insured by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development under s. 8, s. 202, s. 221(d)(3) or (4), s. 232, or s. 236 of the National Housing Act and is owned or operated by an entity that qualifies as an exempt charitable organization under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As used in this subsection, the term "preschool" means any child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 which serves children under 5 years of age.

Section 2. Section 211.0254, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

211.0254 Child care tax credits.—Beginning January 1, 2025, there is allowed a credit pursuant to s. 402.261 against any tax imposed by the state due under s. 211.02 or s. 211.025. However,

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 117 the combined credit allowed under this section and ss. 211.0251,
 118 211.0252, and 211.0253 may not exceed 50 percent of the tax due
 119 on the return on which the credit is taken. If the combined
 120 credit allowed under the foregoing sections exceeds 50 percent
 121 of the tax due on the return, the credit must first be taken
 122 under s. 211.0251, then under s. 211.0253, then under s.
 123 211.0252. Any remaining liability must be taken under this
 124 section but may not exceed 50 percent of the tax due. For
 125 purposes of the distributions of tax revenue under s. 211.06,
 126 the department shall disregard any tax credits allowed under
 127 this section to ensure that any reduction in tax revenue
 128 received which is attributable to the tax credits results only
 129 in a reduction in distributions to the General Revenue Fund. The
 130 provisions of s. 402.261 apply to the credit authorized by this
 131 section.

132 Section 3. Section 212.1835, Florida Statutes, is created
 133 to read:

134 212.1835 Child care tax credits.—Beginning January 1, 2025,
 135 there is allowed a credit pursuant to s. 402.261 against any tax
 136 imposed by the state and due under this chapter from a direct
 137 pay permitholder as a result of the direct pay permit held
 138 pursuant to s. 212.183. For purposes of the dealer's credit
 139 granted for keeping prescribed records, filing timely tax
 140 returns, and properly accounting and remitting taxes under s.
 141 212.12, the amount of tax due used to calculate the credit must
 142 include any expenses or payments from a direct pay permitholder
 143 which give rise to a credit under s. 402.261. For purposes of
 144 the distributions of tax revenue under s. 212.20, the department
 145 shall disregard any tax credits allowed under this section to

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 146 ensure that any reduction in tax revenue received which is
 147 attributable to the tax credits results only in a reduction in
 148 distributions to the General Revenue Fund. The provisions of s.
 149 402.261 apply to the credit authorized by this section. A dealer
 150 who claims a tax credit under this section must file his or her
 151 tax returns and pay his or her taxes by electronic means under
 152 s. 213.755.

153 Section 4. Section 220.19, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 154 read:

155 220.19 Child care tax credits.—

156 (1) For taxable years beginning on or after January 1,
 157 2025, there is allowed a credit pursuant to s. 402.261 against
 158 any tax due for a taxable year under this chapter after the
 159 application of any other allowable credits by the taxpayer. The
 160 credit must be earned pursuant to s. 402.261 on or before the
 161 date the taxpayer is required to file a return pursuant to s.
 162 220.222. If the credit granted under this section is not fully
 163 used in any one year because of insufficient tax liability on
 164 the part of the corporation, the unused amount may be carried
 165 forward for a period not to exceed 5 years. The carryover credit
 166 may be used in a subsequent year when the tax imposed by this
 167 chapter for that year exceeds the credit for which the
 168 corporation is eligible in that year under this section after
 169 applying the other credits and unused carryovers in the order
 170 provided by s. 220.02(8).

171 (2) A taxpayer that files a consolidated return in this
 172 state as a member of an affiliated group under s. 220.131(1) may
 173 be allowed the credit on a consolidated return basis; however,
 174 the total credit taken by the affiliated group is subject to the

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limitation established under s. 402.261(2)(d). ~~If a corporation receives a credit for child care facility startup costs, and the facility fails to operate for at least 5 years, a pro rata share of the credit must be repaid, in accordance with the formula:~~

$$A = C \times (1 - (N/60))$$

Where:

- ~~(a) "A" is the amount in dollars of the required repayment.~~
- ~~(b) "C" is the total credits taken by the corporation for child care facility startup costs.~~
- ~~(c) "N" is the number of months the facility was in operation.~~

~~This repayment requirement is inapplicable if the corporation goes out of business or can demonstrate to the department that its employees no longer want to have a child care facility.~~

(3) The provisions of s. 402.261 apply to the credit authorized by this section.

(4) If a taxpayer applies and is approved for a credit under s. 402.261 after timely requesting an extension to file under s. 220.222(2):

(a) The credit does not reduce the amount of tax due for purposes of the department's determination as to whether the taxpayer was in compliance with the requirement to pay tentative taxes under ss. 220.222 and 220.32.

(b) The taxpayer's noncompliance with the requirement to pay tentative taxes shall result in the revocation and rescindment of any such credit.

(c) The taxpayer shall be assessed for any taxes, penalties, or interest due from the taxpayer's noncompliance

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with the requirement to pay tentative taxes.

(5) For purposes of calculating the underpayment of estimated corporate income taxes under s. 220.34, the final amount due is the amount after credits earned under s. 220.19 are deducted. For purposes of determining if a penalty or interest under s. 220.34(2)(d)1. will be imposed for underpayment of estimated corporate income tax, a taxpayer may, after earning a credit under s. 220.19, reduce any estimated payment in that taxable year by the amount of the credit.

Section 5. Section 402.261, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

402.261 Child care tax credits.—

(1) For purposes of this section, the term:

(a) "Department" means the Department of Revenue.

(b) "Division" means the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

(c) "Eligible child" means the child or grandchild of an employee of a taxpayer, if such employee is the child or grandchild's caregiver as defined in s. 39.01.

(d) "Eligible child care facility" means a child care facility that:

1. Is licensed under s. 402.305; or

2. Is exempt from licensure under s. 402.316.

(e) "Employee" includes full-time employees and part-time employees who work an average of at least 20 hours per week.

(f) "Maximum annual tax credit amount" means, for any state fiscal year, the sum of the amount of tax credits approved under this section, including tax credits to be taken under s.

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211.0254, s. 212.1835, s. 220.19, s. 561.1214, or s. 624.5107, which are approved for taxpayers whose taxable years begin on or after January 1 of the calendar year preceding the start of the applicable state fiscal year.

(g) "Tax due" means any tax required under chapter 211, chapter 220, chapter 561, or chapter 624, or due under chapter 212 from a direct pay permitholder as a result of a direct pay permit held pursuant to s. 212.183.

(2)(a) A taxpayer who operates an eligible child care facility for the taxpayer's employees is allowed a credit of 50 percent of the startup costs of such facility against any tax due for the taxable year such facility begins operation as an eligible child care facility. The maximum credit amount a taxpayer may be granted in a taxable year under this paragraph is based on the average number of employees employed by the taxpayer during such year. For an employer that employed:

1. One to nineteen employees, the maximum credit is \$1 million.
2. Twenty to two hundred fifty employees, the maximum credit is \$500,000.
3. More than 250 employees, the maximum credit is \$250,000.

(b) A taxpayer who operates an eligible child care facility for the taxpayer's employees is allowed a credit of \$300 per month for each eligible child enrolled in such facility against any tax due for the taxable year. The maximum credit amount a taxpayer may be granted in a taxable year under this paragraph is based on the average number of employees employed by the taxpayer during such year. For an employer that employed:

1. One to nineteen employees, the maximum credit is

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\$50,000.

2. Twenty to two hundred fifty employees, the maximum credit is \$500,000.
3. More than 250 employees, the maximum credit is \$1 million.

(c) A taxpayer who makes payments to an eligible child care facility in the name and for the benefit of an employee employed by the taxpayer whose eligible child attends such facility is allowed a credit of 100 percent of the amount of such payments against any tax due for the taxable year up to a maximum credit of \$3,600 per child per taxable year. The taxpayer may make payments directly to the eligible child care facility or contract with an early learning coalition to process payments. The maximum credit amount a taxpayer may be granted in a taxable year under this paragraph is based on the average number of employees employed by the taxpayer during such year. For an employer that employed:

1. One to nineteen employees, the maximum credit is \$50,000.
2. Twenty to two hundred fifty employees, the maximum credit is \$500,000.
3. More than 250 employees, the maximum credit is \$1 million.

(d) A taxpayer may qualify for a tax credit under more than one paragraph of this subsection; however, the total credit taken by such taxpayers in a single taxable year may not exceed the sum total of the maximum credit they are granted under each applicable paragraph.

(e) Beginning in fiscal year 2024-2025, the maximum annual

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tax credit amount is \$5 million in each state fiscal year.

(3) (a) If the credit granted under this section is not fully used within the specified state fiscal year for credits under s. 211.0254, s. 212.1835, or s. 561.1214, or against taxes due for the specified taxable year for credits under s. 220.19 or s. 624.5107, because of insufficient tax liability on the part of the taxpayer, the unused amount may be carried forward for a period not to exceed 5 years. For purposes of s. 220.19, a credit carried forward may be used in a subsequent year after applying the other credits and unused carryovers in the order provided by s. 220.02(8).

(b) 1. If a taxpayer receives a credit for startup costs pursuant to paragraph (2)(a), and the eligible child care facility fails to operate for at least 5 years, a pro rata share of the credit must be repaid, in accordance with the formula:

$$A = C \times (1 - (N/60))$$

Where:

a. "A" is the amount, in dollars, of the required repayment.

b. "C" is the total credits taken by the taxpayer for eligible child care facility startup costs against a tax due under this section.

c. "N" is the number of months the eligible child care facility was in operation.

2. A taxpayer who is required to repay a pro rata share of the credit under this paragraph shall file an amended return with the department, or such other report as the department prescribes by rule, and pay such amount within 60 days after the last day of operation of the eligible child care facility. The

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department shall distribute such funds in accordance with the applicable statutory provision for the tax against which such credit was taken by that taxpayer.

(4) (a) A taxpayer may claim a credit only for the creation or operation of, or payments to, an eligible child care facility.

(b) The services of an eligible child care facility for which a taxpayer claims a credit under paragraph (2)(b) must be available to all employees employed by the taxpayer, or must be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and must be used by at least one eligible child.

(c) Two or more taxpayers may jointly establish and operate an eligible child care facility according to the provisions of this section. If two or more taxpayers choose to jointly establish and operate an eligible child care facility, or cause a not-for-profit taxpayer to establish and operate an eligible child care facility, the taxpayers must file a joint application, or the not-for-profit taxpayer may file an application, pursuant to subsection (5) setting forth the taxpayers' proposal. The participating taxpayers may proportion the available credits in any manner they choose. In the event the child care facility does not operate for 5 years, the repayment required under paragraph (3)(b) must be allocated among, and apply to, the participating taxpayers in the proportion that such taxpayers received the credit under this section.

(d) Child care payments for which a taxpayer claims a credit under paragraph (2)(c) may not exceed the amount charged by the eligible child care facility for other children of like

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age and ability of persons not employed by the taxpayer.

(5) Beginning October 1, 2024, a taxpayer may submit an application to the department for the purposes of determining qualification for a credit under this section to be applied to a taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2025. The department must approve the application for the credit before the taxpayer is authorized to claim the credit on a return.

(a) The application must include:

1.a. For a credit under paragraph (2)(a), a proposal for establishing an eligible child care facility for use by its employees, the number of eligible children expected to be enrolled, and the expected date operations will begin. A credit may not be claimed on a return until operations have begun.

b. For a credit under paragraph (2)(b), the total number of eligible children for whom child care will be provided at the eligible child care facility and the total number of months the facility is expected to operate during the taxable year in which the credit will be earned.

c. For a credit under paragraph (2)(c), the total number of eligible children for whom child care payments will be paid and the estimated total annual amount of such payments during the taxable year in which the credit will be earned.

2. The taxable year in which the credit is expected to be earned. A taxpayer may apply for a credit to be used for a prior taxable year at any time before the date on which the taxpayer is required to file a return for that year pursuant to s. 220.222.

3. For a credit under paragraph (2)(a) or paragraph (2)(b), a statement signed by a person authorized to sign on behalf of

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the taxpayer that the facility meets the definition of eligible child care facility and otherwise qualifies for the credit under this section. Such statement must be attached to the application.

(b) The department shall approve tax credits on a first-come, first-served basis, and must obtain the division's approval before approving a tax credit under s. 561.1214. Within 10 days after approving or denying an application, the Department of Revenue shall provide a copy of its approval or denial letter to the taxpayer.

(6) (a) A taxpayer may not convey, transfer, or assign an approved tax credit or a carryforward tax credit to another entity unless all of the assets of the taxpayer are conveyed, assigned, or transferred in the same transaction. However, a tax credit under s. 211.0254, s. 212.1835, s. 220.19, s. 561.1214, or s. 624.5107 may be conveyed, transferred, or assigned between members of an affiliated group of taxpayers if the type of tax credit under s. 211.0254, s. 212.1835, s. 220.19, s. 561.1214, or s. 624.5107 remains the same. A taxpayer shall notify the department of its intent to convey, transfer, or assign a tax credit to another member within an affiliated group of corporations as defined in s. 220.03(1)(b). The amount conveyed, transferred, or assigned is available to another member of the affiliated group of corporations upon approval by the department. The department shall obtain the division's approval before approving a conveyance, transfer, or assignment of a tax credit under s. 561.1214.

(b) Within any state fiscal year, a taxpayer may rescind all or part of a tax credit approved under subsection (5). The

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amount rescinded shall become available for that state fiscal year to another taxpayer approved by the department under this section. The department must obtain the division's approval before accepting the rescindment of a tax credit under s. 561.1214. Any amount rescinded under this paragraph must become available to a taxpayer on a first-come, first-served basis based on tax credit applications received after the date the rescindment is accepted by the department.

(c) Within 10 days after approving or denying the conveyance, transfer, or assignment of a tax credit under paragraph (a), or the rescindment of a tax credit under paragraph (b), the department shall provide a copy of its approval or denial letter to the taxpayer requesting the conveyance, transfer, assignment, or rescindment.

(7) (a) The department may adopt rules to administer this section, including rules for the approval or disapproval of proposals submitted by taxpayers and rules to provide for cooperative arrangements between for-profit and not-for-profit taxpayers.

(b) The department's decision to approve or disapprove a proposal must be in writing, and, if the proposal is approved, the decision must state the maximum credit authorized for the taxpayer.

(c) In addition to its existing audit and investigation authority, the department may perform any additional financial and technical audits and investigations, including examining the accounts, books, or records of the tax credit applicant, which are necessary to verify the costs included in a credit application and to ensure compliance with this section.

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(d) It is grounds for forfeiture of previously claimed and received tax credits if the department determines that a taxpayer received tax credits pursuant to this section to which the taxpayer was not entitled.

Section 6. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1), paragraphs (a), (e), and (f) of subsection (2), paragraph (c) of subsection (7), and subsections (9), (13), and (17) of section 402.305, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

(1) LICENSING STANDARDS.—The department shall establish licensing standards that each licensed child care facility must meet regardless of the origin or source of the fees used to operate the facility or the type of children served by the facility.

(a) The standards shall be designed to address ~~the following areas:~~

1. the health and nutrition, sanitation, safety, developmental needs, and sanitary adequate physical conditions surroundings for all children served by in child care facilities.

~~2. The health and nutrition of all children in child care.~~

~~3. The child development needs of all children in child care.~~

(c) The minimum standards for child care facilities shall be adopted in the rules of the department and shall address the areas delineated in this section.

1. The department, in adopting rules to establish minimum standards for child care facilities, shall recognize that different age groups of children may require different

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standards.

2. The department may adopt different minimum standards for facilities that serve children in different age groups, including school-age children.

3. The department may create up to two classification levels for violations of licensing standards that directly relate to health and safety. No other classification levels may be created. Violations of standards not directly related to health and safety may only be addressed through technical assistance.

4. The department shall ~~also~~ adopt by rule a definition for child care which distinguishes between child care programs that require child care licensure and after-school programs that do not require licensure. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, minimum child care licensing standards shall be developed to provide for reasonable, affordable, and safe before-school and after-school care. After-school programs that otherwise meet the criteria for exclusion from licensure may provide snacks and meals through the federal Afterschool Meal Program (AMP) administered by the Department of Health in accordance with federal regulations and standards. The Department of Health shall consider meals to be provided through the AMP only if the program is actively participating in the AMP, is in good standing with the department, and the meals meet AMP requirements. Standards, at a minimum, shall allow for a credentialed director to supervise multiple before-school and after-school sites.

(2) PERSONNEL.—Minimum standards for child care personnel shall include minimum requirements as to:

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(a) Good moral character based upon screening as defined in s. 402.302(15). This screening shall be conducted as provided in chapter 435, using the level 2 standards for screening provided ~~set forth~~ in that chapter, and include employment history checks, a search of criminal history records, sexual predator and sexual offender registries, and child abuse and neglect registry of any state in which the current or prospective child care personnel resided during the preceding 5 years. The department shall complete the screening and provide the results to the child care facility within 5 business days. If the department is unable to complete the screening within 5 business days, the department shall issue the current or prospective child care personnel a 45-day provisional-hire status while all required information is being requested and the department is awaiting results unless the department has reason to believe a disqualifying factor may exist. During the 45-day period, the current or prospective child care personnel must be under the direct supervision of a screened and trained staff member when in contact with children.

(e) Minimum training requirements for child care personnel.

1. Such minimum standards for training shall ensure that all child care personnel take an approved 40-clock-hour introductory course in child care, which course covers ~~at least~~ the following topic areas:

- a. State and local rules and regulations which govern child care.
- b. Health, safety, and nutrition.
- c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.
- d. Child development, including typical and atypical

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language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills development.

e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to determine the child's developmental age level.

f. Specialized areas, including computer technology for professional and classroom use and early literacy and language development of children from birth to 5 years of age, as determined by the department, for owner-operators and child care personnel of a child care facility.

g. Developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder and Down syndrome, and early identification, use of available state and local resources, classroom integration, and positive behavioral supports for children with developmental disabilities.

h. Online training coursework, provided at no cost by the department, to meet minimum training standards for child care personnel.

Within 90 days after employment, child care personnel shall begin training to meet the training requirements. Child care personnel shall successfully complete such training within 1 year after the date on which the training began, as evidenced by passage of an in-person or online a competency examination. Successful completion of the 40-clock-hour introductory course shall articulate into community college credit in early childhood education, pursuant to ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25. Exemption from all or a portion of the required training shall be granted to child care personnel based upon educational

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credentials or passage of competency examinations. Child care personnel possessing a 2-year degree or higher that includes 6 college credit hours in early childhood development or child growth and development, or a child development associate credential or an equivalent state-approved child development associate credential, or a child development associate waiver certificate shall be automatically exempted from the training requirements in sub-subparagraphs b., d., and e.

~~2. The introductory course in child care shall stress, to the extent possible, an interdisciplinary approach to the study of children.~~

~~2.3-~~ The introductory course shall cover recognition and prevention of shaken baby syndrome; prevention of sudden infant death syndrome; recognition and care of infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder and Down syndrome; and early childhood brain development within the topic areas identified in this paragraph.

~~3.4-~~ On an annual basis in order to further their child care skills and, if appropriate, administrative skills, child care personnel who have fulfilled the requirements for the child care training shall be required to take an additional 1 continuing education unit of approved inservice training, or 10 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the department.

~~4.5-~~ Child care personnel shall be required to complete 0.5 continuing education unit of approved training or 5 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the department, in early literacy and language development of children from birth to 5 years of age one time. The year that this training is

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completed, it shall fulfill the 0.5 continuing education unit or 5 clock hours of the annual training required in subparagraph 3.4.

~~5.6~~ Procedures for ensuring the training of qualified child care professionals to provide training of child care personnel, including onsite training, shall be included in the minimum standards. It is recommended that the state community child care coordination agencies (central agencies) be contracted by the department to coordinate such training when possible. Other district educational resources, such as community colleges and career programs, can be designated in such areas where central agencies may not exist or are determined not to have the capability to meet the coordination requirements set forth by the department.

6.7. Training requirements do ~~shall~~ not apply to certain occasional or part-time support staff, including, but not limited to, swimming instructors, piano teachers, dance instructors, and gymnastics instructors.

7.8. The child care operator shall be required to take basic training in serving children with disabilities within 5 years after employment, either as a part of the introductory training or the annual 8 hours of inservice training.

(f) Periodic health examinations for child care facility drivers.

(7) SANITATION AND SAFETY.—

~~(c) Some type of communications system, such as a pocket pager or beeper, shall be provided to a parent whose child is in drop-in child care to ensure the immediate return of the parent to the child, if necessary.~~

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(9) ADMISSIONS AND RECORDKEEPING.—

(a) Minimum standards shall include requirements for preadmission and periodic health examinations, requirements for immunizations, and requirements for maintaining emergency information and health records on all children.

~~(b) During the months of August and September of each year, each child care facility shall provide parents of children enrolled in the facility detailed information regarding the causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus in an effort to educate those parents regarding the importance of immunizing their children against influenza as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.~~

~~(c) During the months of April and September of each year, at a minimum, each facility shall provide parents of children enrolled in the facility information regarding the potential for a distracted adult to fail to drop off a child at the facility and instead leave the child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at the adult's destination. The child care facility shall also give parents information about resources with suggestions to avoid this occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer or brochure with this information that shall be posted to the department's website, which child care facilities may choose to reproduce and provide to parents to satisfy the requirements of this paragraph.~~

~~(d) Because of the nature and duration of drop-in child care, requirements for preadmission and periodic health examinations and requirements for medically signed records of immunization required for child care facilities shall not apply.~~

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639 ~~A parent of a child in drop-in child care shall, however, be~~
 640 ~~required to attest to the child's health condition and the type~~
 641 ~~and current status of the child's immunizations.~~

642 ~~(b)(e)~~ Any child shall be exempt from medical or physical
 643 examination or medical or surgical treatment upon written
 644 request of the parent or guardian of such child who objects to
 645 the examination and treatment. However, the laws, rules, and
 646 regulations relating to contagious or communicable diseases and
 647 sanitary matters shall not be violated because of any exemption
 648 from or variation of the health and immunization minimum
 649 standards.

650 (13) PLAN OF ACTIVITIES.—Minimum standards shall ensure
 651 that each child care facility has and implements a written plan
 652 for the daily provision of varied activities and active and
 653 quiet play opportunities appropriate to the age of the child.
 654 ~~The written plan must include a program, to be implemented~~
 655 ~~periodically for children of an appropriate age, which will~~
 656 ~~assist the children in preventing and avoiding physical and~~
 657 ~~mental abuse.~~

658 ~~(17) SPECIALIZED CHILD CARE FACILITIES FOR THE CARE OF~~
 659 ~~MILDLY ILL CHILDREN.—Minimum standards shall be developed by the~~
 660 ~~department, in conjunction with the Department of Health, for~~
 661 ~~specialized child care facilities for the care of mildly ill~~
 662 ~~children. The minimum standards shall address the following~~
 663 ~~areas: personnel requirements; staff-to-child ratios; staff~~
 664 ~~training and credentials; health and safety; physical facility~~
 665 ~~requirements, including square footage; client eligibility;~~
 666 ~~including a definition of "mildly ill children"; sanitation and~~
 667 ~~safety; admission and recordkeeping; dispensing of medication;~~

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668 ~~and a schedule of activities.~~

669 Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 402.306, Florida
 670 Statutes, is amended to read:

671 402.306 Designation of licensing agency; dissemination by
 672 the department and local licensing agency of information on
 673 child care.—

674 (1) (a) Any county whose licensing standards meet or exceed
 675 state minimum standards may:

676 1. ~~(a)~~ Designate a local licensing agency to license child
 677 care facilities in the county; or

678 2. ~~(b)~~ Contract with the department to delegate the
 679 administration of state minimum standards in the county to the
 680 department.

681 (b) The decision to designate a local licensing agency
 682 under subparagraph (a)1. must be annually affirmed by a majority
 683 vote of the county commission.

684 Section 8. Section 402.3115, Florida Statutes, is amended
 685 to read:

686 402.3115 Elimination of duplicative and unnecessary
 687 inspections; abbreviated inspections.—

688 (1) The Department of Children and Families and local
 689 governmental agencies that license child care facilities shall
 690 develop and implement a plan to eliminate duplicative and
 691 unnecessary inspections of child care facilities, family day
 692 care homes, and large family child care homes.

693 (2) (a) ~~In addition,~~ The department and the local
 694 governmental agencies shall develop and implement an abbreviated
 695 inspection plan for child care facilities that meets all of the
 696 following conditions:

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697 1. Have been licensed for at least 2 consecutive years.
 698 2. Have not had a ~~no~~ Class 1 deficiency, as defined by
 699 rule, for at least 2 consecutive years.
 700 3. Have not had more than three of the same ~~or~~ Class 2
 701 deficiencies, as defined by rule, for at least 2 consecutive
 702 years.
 703 4. Have received at least two full onsite renewal
 704 inspections in the most recent 2 years.
 705 5. Do not have any current uncorrected violations.
 706 6. Do not have any open regulatory complaints or active
 707 child protective services investigations.
 708 (b) The abbreviated inspection must include those elements
 709 identified by the department and the local governmental agencies
 710 as being key indicators of whether the child care facility
 711 continues to provide quality care and programming and must be
 712 updated every 5 years.
 713 (3) The department shall adopt rules and revise policies
 714 based on the recommendations in the report.
 715 (4) The department shall revise the plan under subsection
 716 (1) as necessary to maintain the validity and effectiveness of
 717 inspections.
 718 Section 9. Subsection (1) of section 402.316, Florida
 719 Statutes, is amended to read:
 720 402.316 Exemptions.—
 721 (1) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319, except for the
 722 requirements regarding screening of child care personnel, shall
 723 not apply to a child care facility which is an integral part of
 724 church or parochial schools conducting regularly scheduled
 725 classes, courses of study, or educational programs accredited

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726 by, or by a member of, an organization which publishes and
 727 requires compliance with its standards for health, safety, and
 728 sanitation; or which is only attended by children who meet the
 729 definition of eligible child, as defined in s. 402.261(1).
 730 However, such facilities shall meet minimum requirements of the
 731 applicable local governing body as to health, sanitation, and
 732 safety and shall meet the screening requirements pursuant to ss.
 733 402.305 and 402.3055. Failure by a facility to comply with such
 734 screening requirements shall result in the loss of the
 735 facility's exemption from licensure.
 736 Section 10. Section 561.1214, Florida Statutes, is created
 737 to read:
 738 561.1214 Child care tax credits.—Beginning January 1, 2025,
 739 there is allowed a credit pursuant to s. 402.261 against any tax
 740 due under s. 563.05, s. 564.06, or s. 565.12, except excise
 741 taxes imposed on wine produced by manufacturers in this state
 742 from products grown in this state. However, a credit allowed
 743 under this section may not exceed 90 percent of the tax due on
 744 the return on which the credit is taken. For purposes of the
 745 distributions of tax revenue under ss. 561.121 and 564.06(10),
 746 the division shall disregard any tax credits allowed under this
 747 section to ensure that any reduction in tax revenue received
 748 which is attributable to the tax credits results only in a
 749 reduction in distributions to the General Revenue Fund. The
 750 provisions of s. 402.261 apply to the credit authorized by this
 751 section.
 752 Section 11. Section 624.5107, Florida Statutes, is amended
 753 to read:
 754 624.5107 Child care tax credits.—

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755 (1) For taxable years beginning on or after January 1,
 756 2025, there is allowed a credit pursuant to s. 402.261 against
 757 any tax due for a taxable year under s. 624.509(1) after
 758 deducting from such tax deductions for assessments made pursuant
 759 to s. 440.51; credits for taxes paid under ss. 175.101 and
 760 185.08; credits for income taxes paid under chapter 220; and the
 761 credit allowed under s. 624.509(5), as such credit is limited by
 762 s. 624.509(6). An insurer claiming a credit against premium tax
 763 liability under this section is not required to pay any
 764 additional retaliatory tax levied under s. 624.5091 as a result
 765 of claiming such credit. Section 624.5091 does not limit such
 766 credit in any manner. If the credit granted under this section
 767 is not fully used in any one year because of insufficient tax
 768 liability on the part of the insurer, the unused amount may be
 769 carried forward for a period not to exceed 5 years. The
 770 carryover credit may be used in a subsequent year when the tax
 771 imposed by s. 624.509 or s. 624.510 for that year exceeds the
 772 credit for which the insurer is eligible in that year under this
 773 section.

774 (2) For purposes of determining if a penalty under s.
 775 624.5092 will be imposed, an insurer, after earning a credit
 776 under s. 624.5107 for a taxable year, may reduce any installment
 777 payment for such taxable year of 27 percent of the amount of the
 778 net tax due as reported on the return for the preceding year
 779 under s. 624.5092(2)(b) by the amount of the credit. If an
 780 insurer receives a credit for child care facility startup costs,
 781 and the facility fails to operate for at least 5 years, a pro
 782 rata share of the credit must be repaid, in accordance with the
 783 formula: $A = C \times (1 - (N/60))$, where:

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784 ~~(a) "A" is the amount in dollars of the required repayment.~~
 785 ~~(b) "C" is the total credits taken by the insurer for child~~
 786 ~~care facility startup costs.~~
 787 ~~(c) "N" is the number of months the facility was in~~
 788 ~~operation.~~

790 ~~This repayment requirement is inapplicable if the insurer goes~~
 791 ~~out of business or can demonstrate to the department that its~~
 792 ~~employees no longer want to have a child care facility.~~

793 (3) The provisions of s. 402.261 apply to the credit
 794 authorized by this section.

795 Section 12. Subsection (7) of section 624.509, Florida
 796 Statutes, is amended to read:

797 624.509 Premium tax; rate and computation.—

798 (7) Credits and deductions against the tax imposed by this
 799 section shall be taken in the following order: deductions for
 800 assessments made pursuant to s. 440.51; credits for taxes paid
 801 under ss. 175.101 and 185.08; credits for income taxes paid
 802 under chapter 220 and the credit allowed under subsection (5),
 803 as these credits are limited by subsection (6); the credit
 804 allowed under s. 624.51057; the credit allowed under s.
 805 624.51058; the credit allowed under s. 624.5107; all other
 806 available credits and deductions.

807 Section 13. Section 627.70161, Florida Statutes, is amended
 808 to read:

809 627.70161 Family day care and large family child care
 810 insurance.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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of whether operated for profit, and which has at least two full-time child care personnel on the premises during the hours of operation. One of the two full-time child care personnel must be the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child care home must first have operated as a licensed family day care home for at least 2 years, with an operator who has held a child development associate credential or its equivalent for at least 1 year, before seeking licensure as a large family child care home. Household children under 13 years of age, when on the premises of the large family child care home or on a field trip with children enrolled in child care, must be included in the overall capacity of the licensed home. A large family child care home may provide care for one of the following groups of children, which must include household children under 13 years of age:

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

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

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

(a) Specifically covered in a policy; or

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

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871 (4) DENIAL, CANCELLATION, REFUSAL TO RENEW PROHIBITED.—An
 872 insurer may not deny, cancel, or refuse to renew a policy for
 873 residential property insurance solely on the basis that the
 874 policyholder or applicant operates a family day care home or
 875 large family child care home. In addition to other lawful
 876 reasons for refusing to insure, an insurer may deny, cancel, or
 877 refuse to renew a policy of a family day care home or large
 878 family child care home provider if one or more of the following
 879 conditions occur:

880 (a) The policyholder or applicant provides care for more
 881 children than authorized ~~for family day care homes~~ by s.
 882 402.302;

883 (b) The policyholder or applicant fails to maintain a
 884 separate commercial liability policy or an endorsement providing
 885 liability coverage for the family day care home or large family
 886 child care home operations;

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

890 (d) Discovery of willful or grossly negligent acts or
 891 omissions or any violations of state laws or regulations
 892 establishing safety standards for family day care homes or large
 893 family child care home by the named insured or his or her
 894 representative which materially increase any of the risks
 895 insured.

896 Section 14. Subsection (1) of section 1002.59, Florida
 897 Statutes, is amended to read:

898 1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards
 899 training courses.—

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900 (1) The department, in collaboration with the Just Read,
 901 Florida! Office, shall adopt minimum standards for courses in
 902 emergent literacy for prekindergarten instructors. Each course
 903 must consist of 5 clock hours and provide instruction in
 904 strategies and techniques to address the age-appropriate
 905 progress of prekindergarten students in developing emergent
 906 literacy skills, including oral communication, knowledge of
 907 print and letters, phonological and phonemic awareness,
 908 vocabulary and comprehension development, and foundational
 909 background knowledge designed to correlate with the content that
 910 students will encounter in grades K-12, consistent with the
 911 evidence-based content and strategies grounded in the science of
 912 reading identified pursuant to s. 1001.215(7). The course
 913 standards must be reviewed as part of any review of subject
 914 coverage or endorsement requirements in the elementary, reading,
 915 and exceptional student educational areas conducted pursuant to
 916 s. 1012.586. Each course must also provide resources containing
 917 strategies that allow students with disabilities and other
 918 special needs to derive maximum benefit from the Voluntary
 919 Prekindergarten Education Program. Successful completion of an
 920 emergent literacy training course approved under this section
 921 satisfies requirements for approved training in early literacy
 922 and language development under ss. 402.305(2)(e)4., 402.313(6),
 923 and 402.3131(5) ss. 402.305(2)(e)5., 402.313(6), and
 924 402.3131(5).

925 Section 15. (1) The Department of Revenue is authorized,
 926 and all conditions are deemed met, to adopt emergency rules
 927 pursuant to s. 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, to implement this
 928 act. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, emergency rules

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929 adopted pursuant to this subsection are effective for 6 months
930 after adoption and may be renewed during the pendency of
931 procedures to adopt permanent rules addressing the subject of
932 the emergency rules.

933 (2) This section shall take effect upon this act becoming a
934 law and expires July 1, 2025.

935 Section 16. Except as otherwise provided in this act and
936 except for this section, which shall take effect upon this act
937 becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

412K

8/17/24 830

Meeting Date

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

820

Bill Number or Topic

Education PREK

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Karen Mazzola

Phone

407-855-7604

Address

1747 Orlando Central Pkwy

Street

Email

vp.education@floridapta.org

Orlando

City

FL

State

32809

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For



Against

☐

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☒

In Support

☐

Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:



I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

FL PTA

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

1/17/24

Meeting Date

Ed Prek-12

Committee

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

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820

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name **Sarah Massey**

Phone **850.545.0543**

Address **136 S. Bronough St**

Email

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32301

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Florida Chamber of Commerce

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

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SB 820 Child Care & Early Learning Providers

Bill Number or Topic

1/17/24

Meeting Date

Education PreK-12

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Michele Watson

Phone 850-320-2388

Address 1203 Governor's Square Blvd.

Email mwatson@FACCT.com

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32301

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

**Florida Alliance of Children's
Councils & Trusts**

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

1/17/24
Meeting Date

820
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Child Care & Early Learning Providers

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Edward Briggs

Job Title VP Gov't Affairs

Address _____
Street

Phone 850 953 5994

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Helios Education Foundation

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

1/17/24

Meeting Date

820

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Child Care & Early Learning Providers

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Matt Herndon

Job Title Dir. Gov. Affairs & Comm. Relations

Address 117 E College Ave

Phone 941-704-2793

Street

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32301

Zip

Email matt@teamrsa.com

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Tampa Bay Partnership, United Way Suncoast

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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S-001 (10/14/14)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Jan 17, 2024

Meeting Date

EDUCATION PREK - 12

Committee

820

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Name DAVID DANIEL

Phone _____

Address 311 EAST PARK AVENUE
Street

Email cdaniel@smithbryanandmyers.com

TALLAHASSEE FL 32309
City State Zip

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR CHILD CARE MANAGEMENT

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

BILL: CS/SB 1026

INTRODUCER: Education Pre-K-12 Committee and Senator Grall

SUBJECT: Early Learning

DATE: January 18, 2024

REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Sabitsch	Bouck	ED	Fav/CS
2. _____	_____	AED	_____
3. _____	_____	FP	_____

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1026 provides programmatic and administrative changes to support the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) and the School Readiness (SR) programs as well as providing additional support to struggling students entering kindergarten. Specifically the bill:

- Allows additional VPK instructors to qualify to be a lead instructor in the summer VPK program.
- Sets guardrails for use of progress monitoring and use of electronic devices in VPK classrooms and defines an “electronic device.”
- Modifies specific areas related to VPK performance standards and accountability including the calculation and timing of the performance metric.
- Revises early learning standards domains to replace “self-regulation” with “executive functioning.”
- Allows early learning coalitions (ELCs) to add law enforcement representation to coalition boards.
- Modifies allowable uses of School Readiness funding by ELCs.
- Creates a summer bridge program for VPK students with early literacy deficiencies prior to entering kindergarten.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.

II. Present Situation:

Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program

The VPK program prepares children for success in school and in life. Implemented in 2005, the program is a free, high-quality, education program available to all four-year-old children residing in the state.¹ Parents of 4-year-olds with birthdays from February 2 through September 1 may wait to enroll their child the following year when they are 5.²

The Division of Early Learning (DEL) at the Department of Education (DOE) administers the VPK program at the state level. Data collected by the DOE show that children who participate in VPK are better prepared to enter kindergarten ready to learn. Parents can select from one of several VPK program options available from private and public providers. Providers have flexibility to structure daily hours per week to meet the required number of instructional hours: the School-Year Program is 540 instructional hours; the Summer Program is 300 instructional hours.³

VPK Specialized Instructional Services is a program option available for VPK-age children with current individual educational plans (IEPs). This option allows parents of a VPK-age child to choose additional therapy services consistent with the child's IEP in lieu of attending VPK in a traditional classroom setting.⁴

In FY 2022-23, there were 158,408 children enrolled with 6,237 providers in Florida's VPK Program, with 97 percent of children enrolled in a school year program and 3 percent enrolled in a summer program.⁵

Summer Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Instructor Requirements

Since the inception of the VPK program, parents have had the option of choosing to have his or her child attend a school year or a summer VPK program. Since the 2016-17 VPK program year the summer program has seen declining enrollment. The program served over 5,000 children in 2016-17 and showed a decline that was accelerated by the effects of the national health crisis (COVID-19) that began in 2020 but has yet to recover and served less than 2,500 children in the 2022-2023 summer program.⁶

For the summer VPK program, each public school and private prekindergarten provider must have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one prekindergarten instructor who is a certified teacher or holds a specified bachelor's or higher degree in an early education-related field.⁷ For the VPK program, the term "certified teacher" means a teacher holding a valid Florida educator

¹ FLA. CONST., Art. IX, s. 1.

² FDOE, *Division of Early Learning, Annual Report 2022-2023*, available at: <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/20628/urlt/2223-DEL-AnnualReport.pdf>

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ EDR, *Voluntary Prekindergarten Estimating Conference*, Jan. 9, 2024, available at: <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/conferences/vpk/index.cfm>

⁷ See s. 1002.55(4)(a) or (b).

certificate under s. 1012.56 who has the qualifications required by the district school board to instruct students in the summer VPK program.⁸

VPK Performance Standards

The DOE is required to develop and adopt performance standards for students in the VPK Program.⁹ The performance standards must address the age-appropriate progress of students in the development of required capabilities, capacities, and skills;¹⁰ emergent literacy skills grounded in the science of reading, including oral communication, knowledge of print and letters, phonemic and phonological awareness, vocabulary and comprehension development, and foundational background knowledge designed to correlate with the content that students will encounter in grades K-12; and mathematical thinking and early math skills. The DOE is required to review standards at least every three years.¹¹

Each private prekindergarten provider and public school is allowed to select or design the curriculum that the provider or school uses to implement the program, except for a provider or school that fails to meet the minimum performance metric included in the state's accountability measures. Each private prekindergarten provider's and public school's curriculum must be:¹²

- Developmentally appropriate.
- Designed to prepare a student for early literacy and provide for instruction in early math skills.
- Develop students' background knowledge through a content-rich and sequential knowledge building early literacy curriculum.
- Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in attaining the performance standards adopted by the DOE.
- Support student learning gains through differentiated instruction that is measured by the coordinated screening and progress monitoring (CSPM) program.¹³

The DOE is required to adopt procedures for the review and approval of curricula for use by private prekindergarten providers and public schools that fail to meet performance standards.¹⁴

VPK Program Accountability

VPK program accountability is in a transition period from historical VPK provider kindergarten readiness rates of which the last rates were released for the 2020-2021 program year. Future accountability measures will be based on a yet to be calculated VPK performance metric.

Each private prekindergarten provider and public school participating in the VPK Program is required to participate in the coordinated screening and progress monitoring (CSPM) program.¹⁵

⁸ Section 1002.61(4), F.S.

⁹ Section 1002.67, F.S.

¹⁰ FLA. CONST., Art IX, s. (1)(b).

¹¹ Section 1002.67(1), F.S.

¹² Section 1002.67(2), F.S.

¹³ Section 1002.67(2)(b), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 1002.67(2)(c), F.S.

¹⁵ Section 1002.68(1), F.S.

The CSPM program results shall be used by the DOE to identify student learning gains, index development learning outcomes upon program completion, and inform a private prekindergarten provider's and public school's performance metric.¹⁶ The DOE is required to adopt minimum requirements for those administering the initial and final progress monitoring or screening.

Private prekindergarten providers and public schools are required to provide a student's performance results to the student's parents within seven days after the administration of the CSPM.¹⁷

Each private prekindergarten provider and public school is required to participate in a program assessment of each voluntary prekindergarten education classroom. The program assessment measures the quality of teacher-child interactions, including emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support for children ages 3 to 5 years. The DOE is required to report the results of the program assessment for each classroom within 14 days after the observation. Early learning coalitions (ELCs) are responsible for the administration of the program assessments.¹⁸

Beginning with the 2023-2024 program year,¹⁹ the DOE is required to adopt a methodology for calculating each private prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the following:²⁰

- Program assessment composite scores which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.
- Learning gains from the initial and final administration of the CSPM.
- Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes from the CSPM.²¹

The program assessment composite score and performance metric are required to be calculated for each private prekindergarten or public school site. The scores of the performance metric are required to produce profiles which include the following designations: "unsatisfactory," "emerging proficiency," "proficient," "highly proficient," and "excellent" or comparable terminology. They may not include letter grades.²²

The DOE is required to annually calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public school's performance metric.²³ Beginning with the 2024-2025 program year,²⁴ each private prekindergarten provider or public school will be assigned a designation within 45 days after the conclusion of the school-year program or the summer program. A private prekindergarten provider or public school designated "proficient," "highly proficient," or "excellent"

¹⁶ Section 1002.68(1)(a), F.S.

¹⁷ Section 1002.68(1)(c), F.S.

¹⁸ Section 1002.68(2), F.S.

¹⁹ The program year was changed by ch. 2023-240, s. 5, Laws of Fla., and will revert to the 2022-2023 program year on June 30, 2023, unless acted upon by the Legislature.

²⁰ Section 1002.68(4)(a), F.S.

²¹ *Id.*

²² Section 1002.68(4)(c), F.S.

²³ Section 1002.68(4)(f), F.S.

²⁴ The program year was changed by ch. 2023-240, s. 5, Laws of Fla., and will revert to the 2023-2024 program year on June 30, 2023, unless acted upon by the Legislature.

demonstrates the provider's or school's satisfactory delivery of the VPK program. The designations are required to be displayed in the early learning provider performance profiles.²⁵

If a private prekindergarten provider's or public school's performance metric or designation falls below the minimum performance metric or designation, the ELC is required to place the provider or school on probation. Each provider or school placed on probation is required to submit to the ELC for approval an improvement plan that includes implementation of and approved curriculum and an approved staff development plan. A provider placed on probation remain in that status until the provider has earned a satisfactory performance metric or designation.²⁶

A private prekindergarten provider or public school that remains on probation for two consecutive years and subsequently fails to meet the minimum performance metric or designation is subject to removal from eligibility to deliver the VPK program and receive state funds for the program for a period of at least 2 years but no more than 5 years.²⁷ A private prekindergarten provider or public school may request and receive a good cause exemption in order to remain eligible for the VPK program based on certain criteria including health and safety standards. Exemptions are valid for one year but may be renewed.²⁸

Administrative Funding for the VPK Program

Administrative expenditures for the VPK program must be kept to the minimum necessary for efficient and effective administration of the program. Policies and procedures, to the maximum extent practicable, are required to incorporate the use of automation and electronic submission of forms, including those required for child eligibility and enrollment, provider and class registration, and monthly certification of attendance for payment. Florida's 30 ELCs are allowed to retain and expend no more than 4.0 percent of the funds paid by the coalition to private prekindergarten providers and public schools for the VPK program. The funds retained by an early learning coalition can only be used only for administering the VPK program and cannot be used for the school readiness program or other programs.²⁹

In 2022-23, Florida's 30 ELCs administered the VPK program to 158,408 children enrolled in 6,237 private and public providers.³⁰ For the same year, direct expenditures totaled \$396,563,661 and ELCs collectively withheld \$13,907,380 in total administrative expenditures or 3.51 percent of expenditures. The ELC of Northwest Florida withheld the lowest percentage at 2.3 percent while the ELC of Marion County withheld the highest percentage at 4.51 percent.³¹ All but seven ELCs withheld less than the 4.0 percent allowed in statute.

At the inception of the VPK program, ELCs were allowed to retain 5.0 percent in administrative expenses for the 2005-2006 program year.³² In 2009 the percentage was dropped to 4.85 percent

²⁵ Section 1002.68(4)(h), F.S.

²⁶ Section 1002.68(5), F.S.

²⁷ Section 1002.68(5)(c), F.S.

²⁸ Section 1002.68(6), F.S.

²⁹ Section 1002.71(7), F.S.

³⁰ FDOE, *Division of Early Learning, Annual Report 2023-2023*, available at: <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/20628/urlt/2223-DEL-AnnualReport.pdf>.

³¹ *Id.*

³² Section 1002.71(7), F.S. (2005)

effective for the 2008-2009 program year.³³ For the 2020-2011 program year the percentage was reduced again to 4.5 percent.³⁴ Finally, in 2011 the percentage was further reduced to 4.0 percent for the 2011-2012 program year where it has remained until present.³⁵

Florida Early Learning Standards

The DOE is required to monitor the alignment and consistency of the standards and benchmarks developed and adopted that address the age-appropriate progress of children in the development of the skills needed to be successful in school. The standards for children from birth to kindergarten entry in the school readiness program are required to be aligned with the performance standards adopted for children in the VPK program. Statute requires the standards to address the following domains:³⁶

- Approaches to learning.
- Cognitive development and general knowledge.
- Numeracy, language, and communication.
- Physical development.
- Self-regulation.³⁷

Early Learning Coalition Governance

Florida statutes authorize 30 or fewer early learning coalitions (ELC) which are established to maintain direct services for VPK and school readiness (SR) programs at the local level and provide services in all 67 counties. Each ELC must have at least 15 members but not more than 30 members. The Governor appoints the chair and two other members of each ELC, who must each meet certain qualifications.³⁸

Each ELC must include the following member positions:

- A Department of Children and Families regional administrator.
- A district superintendent of schools.
- A local workforce development board executive director
- A children's services council or juvenile welfare board chair or executive director from each county, if applicable.
- A Department of Children and Families child care regulation representative or an agency head of a local licensing agency.
- A president of a Florida College System institution.
- One member appointed by a board of county commissioners or the governing board of a municipality.
- A Head Start director.
- A representative of private for-profit child care providers, including private for-profit family day care homes.

³³ Chapter 2009-3, s. 7, Laws of Fla.

³⁴ Chapter 2010-154, s. 10, Laws of Fla.

³⁵ Chapter 2011-55, s. 13, Laws of Fla.

³⁶ Section 1002.82(2)(j), F.S.

³⁷ *Id.*

³⁸ Section 1002.83(1),(2) and (3), F.S.

- A representative of faith-based child care providers.
- A representative of programs for children with disabilities.³⁹

An ELC may appoint additional members who must be private sector business members, either for-profit or nonprofit with certain criteria.⁴⁰

School Readiness Program Funding

Florida's school readiness (SR) program offers low-income families financial assistance to facilitate access to high-quality child care and early education for their children while parents work or participate in job training. The Division of Early Learning (DEL) administers the program at the state level while ELCs administer the SR program at the county and regional levels. In fiscal year 2022-23, there were 209,986 children enrolled with 6,790 early learning providers in Florida's SR program.⁴¹

Funding comes from four sources; the Child Care and Development Block Grant, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant, the Social Services Block Grant, and the State of Florida. The program's two main goals are to help families become financially self-sufficient and help each child from a qualifying family develop school readiness skills.⁴²

Costs for the School Readiness (SR) program must be kept to the minimum necessary for the efficient and effective administration of the SR program with the highest priority of expenditure being direct services for eligible children. No more than 5 percent of the funds allocated in the General Appropriations Act may be used for administrative costs and no more than 22 percent of the funds allocated may be used in any fiscal year for any combination of administrative costs, quality activities, and nondirect services.⁴³

Non-direct services include:⁴⁴

- Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.54.
- Activities to improve the quality of child care as described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.53, limited to the following:
- Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and coordinating resource and referral programs.
- Awarding grants and providing financial support to school readiness program providers and their staff to assist them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program assessment, child care performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate curricula and related classroom resources that support curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing continued professional development and training.
- Providing training, technical assistance, and financial support to school readiness program providers, staff, and parents on standards, child screenings, child assessments, child

³⁹ Section 1002.83(4), F.S.

⁴⁰ Section 1002.83(4), F.S.

⁴¹ FDOE, *Division of Early Learning, Annual Report 2023-2023*, available at: <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/20628/urlt/2223-DEL-AnnualReport.pdf>.

⁴² *Id.*

⁴³ Section 1002.89(4), F.S.

⁴⁴ *Id.*

development research and best practices, developmentally appropriate curricula, character development, teacher-child interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and safety, nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection, prevention, and reporting.

- Providing adequate funding for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for infant and toddler care.
- Improving the monitoring of compliance with, and enforcement of, applicable state and local requirements as described in and limited by 45 C.F.R. s. 98.40.
- Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and parents, including providing developmental and health screenings to school readiness program children.⁴⁵

Instructional Support for Early Literacy

A VPK program student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills based upon the results of the administration of the final CSPM must be referred to the local school district and may be eligible to receive instruction in early literacy skills before participating in kindergarten. A prekindergarten student with an individual education plan who has been retained and has demonstrated a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills is required to receive instruction in early literacy skills.⁴⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Summer Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Instructor Requirements

The bill modifies s. 1002.61, F.S., to allow an instructor who has completed a child development associate or a credential approved by the Department of Children and Families as being equivalent to a child development associate to be the lead voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) instructor in a summer program, provided the individual has completed the early literacy micro-credential program or has an instructional support score of three or higher on the required program assessment under the VPK or school readiness (SR) program. This modification may increase the number of available candidates that can be the lead instructor in summer VPK classrooms.

VPK Performance Standards

The bill modifies s. 1002.67, F.S., to prohibit a VPK provider from using the Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring (CSPM) program, another progress monitoring program, or an instructional program that requires use of a one-to-one electronic device for the purposes of direct student instruction. The bill defines “electronic device” as a device that is used for audio, video, or text communication or any other type of computer or computer-like instrument, including, but not limited to, a smartphone, a smart or electronic watch, a tablet, or a virtual reality device. The prohibition is intended to avoid inappropriate use of the CSPM or other progress monitoring programs and limit the use of devices in VPK classrooms.

⁴⁵ Section 1002.89(4), F.S.

⁴⁶ Section 1008.25(5)(b), F.S.

VPK Program Accountability

The bill modifies s. 1002.68, F.S., to change the program year that the Department of Education (DOE) is required to adopt a methodology for calculation of the performance metric from the 2023-2024 program year to the 2024-2025 program year. The change would move the calculation to the same year the DOE is required to issue the performance metric.⁴⁷

The bill allows for an alternate calculation of the program assessment composite score, which is one factor required in the calculation of the performance metric, from the program assessment composite score that is issued in accordance with s. 1002.68(2), F.S., to measure the quality of teacher-child interactions in VPK classrooms.

The bill restores a provision of law removed in 2023⁴⁸ regarding the accountability measures for the VPK program.

The bill modifies the health and safety standards under which a provider cannot be granted a good cause exemption based on failing to meet the minimum performance metric score or designation for three consecutive years. The bill changes the standard from 2 or more Class II violations within the past 2 years to 3 or more of the same Class II violations.

Administrative Funding for the VPK Program

The bill modifies s. 1002.71, F.S., to increase from 4 percent to 5 percent the amount of funds paid to private prekindergarten providers and public schools for the VPK program each ELC may retain and expend. This represents a 25 percent increase in allowable administrative cost for the VPK program.

Florida Early Learning Standards

The bill modifies s. 1002.82, F.S., to change the “self-regulation” domain in the early learning standards (birth to kindergarten) to “executive functioning.”⁴⁹

Early Learning Coalition Governance

The bill modifies s. 1002.83, F.S., to allow each ELC to appoint an additional public sector board member in order to include a representative of local law enforcement.

School Readiness Program Funding

The bill modifies s. 1008.89, F.S., to add activities to improve the quality of child care that each ELC can use SR program funds. For grants and providing financial support, the bill adds:

⁴⁷ *Supra*, see note 19.

⁴⁸ Chapter 2023-240, s. 5, Laws of Fla.

⁴⁹ Executive function skills are the attention-regulation skills that make it possible to sustain attention, keep goals and information in mind, refrain from responding immediately, resist distraction, tolerate frustration, consider the consequences of different behaviors, reflect on past experiences, and plan for the future. Zelazo, P.D., Blair, C.B., and Willoughby, M.T. (2016). *Executive Function: Implications for Education* (NCER 2017-2000) Washington, DC: National Center for Education Research, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, *available at* <https://ies.ed.gov/ncer/pubs/20172000/pdf/20172000.pdf>, at 1.

- Resources that support parent engagement, rather than curricula.
- Professional development through the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) scholarship program.
- Training aligned to the early learning professional development standards and career pathways.
- Reimbursement for background screening.

The bill also allows each ELC to use SR program funds to provide training aligned with the early learning professional development standards and career pathways but removes activities associated with child research and best practices, curricula and character development. The bill also allows supports for developmentally appropriate curriculum and executive functioning.

Instructional Support for Early Literacy

The bill modifies s. 1008.25, F.S., to create, subject to legislative appropriation, a summer bridge program for VPK students who have attended at least 80 percent of the school year VPK program and have a substantial deficiency in early literacy under specified performance standards and have scored below the 20th percentile on the final administration of the CSPM. Students identified are eligible to receive early instructional support services that meet the requirements established by DOE and consisting of four hours of instruction per day for a minimum of 100 total hours.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1002.61, 1002.67, 1002.68, 1002.71, 1002.82, 1002.83, 1002.89, and 1008.25.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Education Pre-K - 12 on January 17, 2024:

The committee substitute:

- Restores a provision of law removed in 2023 related to Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) provider accountability.
- Removes a reference to the evidence-based reading instruction allocation that was eliminated in 2023.
- Makes the funding for the summer bridge program created in the bill subject to legislative appropriation.
- Clarifies prohibitions on use of electronic devices for direct student instruction in the VPK program and provides a definition for “electronic devices.”

B. Amendments:

None.



493612

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/18/2024	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Education Pre-K -12 (Grall) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 79 - 80
and insert:
instructional program that requires student use of a one-to-one
electronic device for direct student instruction. As used in
this subparagraph, the term "electronic device" means a device
that is used for audio, video, or text communication or any
other type of computer or computer-like instrument, including,
but not limited to, a smartphone, a smart or electronic watch, a



493612

11 tablet, or a virtual reality device.

12

13 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

14 And the title is amended as follows:

15 Between lines 8 and 9

16 insert:

17 defining the term "electronic device";



654458

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/18/2024	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Education Pre-K -12 (Grall) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with directory amendment)

Delete lines 104 - 122

and insert:

(5)

(a) If a public school's or private prekindergarten provider's program assessment composite score for its prekindergarten classrooms fails to meet the minimum program assessment composite score for contracting adopted in rule by the department, the private prekindergarten provider or public



654458

school may not participate in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program beginning in the consecutive program year and thereafter until the public school or private prekindergarten provider meets the minimum composite score for contracting. A public school or private prekindergarten provider may request one program assessment per program year in order to requalify for participation in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program, provided that the public school or private prekindergarten provider is not excluded from participation under ss. 1002.55(6), 1002.61(10)(b), 1002.63(9)(b), or paragraph (5)(b) of this section. If a public school or private prekindergarten provider would like an additional program assessment completed within the same program year, the public school or private prekindergarten provider shall be responsible for the cost of the program assessment.

=====
And the directory clause is amended as follows:

Delete lines 81 - 83
and insert:

Section 3. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (4) and paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, are amended, and upon the expiration and reversion of the amendment made to paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of that section pursuant to section 6 of chapter 2023-240, Laws of Florida, paragraph (a) of subsection (5) is republished, to read:



736488

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/18/2024	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Education Pre-K -12 (Grall) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete line 275

and insert:

(b) Subject to legislative appropriation, a Voluntary
Prekindergarten Education Program student

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

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 25



736488

11 and insert:
12 that, subject to legislative appropriation, certain
13 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education



521898

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/18/2024	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Education Pre-K -12 (Grall) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment

Delete lines 288 - 291
and insert:
hours of instruction per day for a minimum of 100 total hours A
~~student~~

By Senator Grall

29-00921B-24

20241026__

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to early learning; amending s.
 3 1002.61, F.S.; revising requirements for
 4 prekindergarten instructors; amending s. 1002.67,
 5 F.S.; prohibiting private prekindergarten provider and
 6 public school curricula from using a coordinated
 7 screening and progress monitoring program or other
 8 specified methods for direct student instruction;
 9 amending s. 1002.68, F.S.; authorizing alternative
 10 methods for calculating program assessment composite
 11 scores; requiring prekindergarten providers and public
 12 schools to notify parents under certain circumstances;
 13 revising exceptions for a good cause exemption; making
 14 technical changes; amending s. 1002.71, F.S.; revising
 15 the percentage of funds an early learning coalition
 16 may retain and expend; amending s. 1002.82, F.S.;
 17 revising the performance standards adopted by the
 18 Department of Education relating to the Voluntary
 19 Prekindergarten Education Program; amending s.
 20 1002.83, F.S.; authorizing an early learning coalition
 21 to appoint a certain additional board member; amending
 22 s. 1002.89, F.S.; revising school readiness program
 23 expenditures that are subject to certain cost
 24 requirements; amending s. 1008.25, F.S.; providing
 25 that certain Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
 26 Program students are eligible to receive instructional
 27 support in early literacy skills through a specified
 28 program; providing specifications for the program;
 29 providing for funding for the program; providing an

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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30 effective date.
 31
 32 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 33
 34 Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 1002.61, Florida
 35 Statutes, is amended to read:
 36 1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public
 37 schools and private prekindergarten providers.—
 38 (4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)1. and 1002.63(4),
 39 each public school and private prekindergarten provider must
 40 have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one
 41 prekindergarten instructor who is a certified teacher or holds
 42 one of the educational credentials specified in s. 1002.55(4)(a)
 43 or (b), or an educational credential specified in s.
 44 1002.55(3)(c)1. as long as the instructor has completed the
 45 early literacy micro-credential program under s. 1003.485 or has
 46 an instructional support score of 3 or higher on a program
 47 assessment conducted under s. 1002.68(2) or s. 1002.82(2)(n). As
 48 used in this subsection, the term "certified teacher" means a
 49 teacher holding a valid Florida educator certificate under s.
 50 1012.56 who has the qualifications required by the district
 51 school board to instruct students in the summer prekindergarten
 52 program. In selecting instructional staff for the summer
 53 prekindergarten program, each school district shall give
 54 priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in early
 55 childhood education and have completed emergent literacy and
 56 performance standards courses, as provided for in s.
 57 1002.55(3)(c)2.
 58 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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1002.67, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.67 Performance standards and curricula.—

(2)

(b) Each private prekindergarten provider's and public school's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and must:

1. Be designed to prepare a student for early literacy and provide for instruction in early math skills;

2. Develop students' background knowledge through a content-rich and sequential knowledge building early literacy curriculum;

3. Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in attaining the performance standards adopted by the department under subsection (1); and

4. Support student learning gains through differentiated instruction that must ~~shall~~ be measured by the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program under s. 1008.25(9). A private prekindergarten provider's or public school's curriculum may not use the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program, any other progress monitoring program, or an instructional program that requires one student to one device for direct student instruction.

Section 3. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (4), paragraph (a) of subsection (5), and paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program accountability.—

(4) (a) Beginning with the 2024-2025 ~~2023-2024~~ program year, the department shall adopt a methodology for calculating each

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20241026__

private prekindergarten provider's and public school provider's performance metric, which must be based on a combination of the following:

1. Program assessment composite scores under subsection (2), which may be calculated differently, based on the methodology adopted by the department, than the program assessment composite score required for contracting in paragraph (5) (a), and which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.

2. Learning gains operationalized as change-in-ability scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results described in subsection (1).

3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes described in subsection (1).

(c) The program assessment composite score in subsection (5) and performance metric must be calculated for each private prekindergarten or public school site.

(5) (a) Beginning with the 2024-2025 program year, if a private prekindergarten provider's or public school's performance metric or designation does not maintain ~~falls below~~ the minimum performance metric or designation, the early learning coalition shall:

1. Require the provider or school to submit for approval to the early learning coalition an improvement plan and implement the plan.

2. Place the provider or school on probation.

3. Require the provider or school to take certain corrective actions, including notifying the parent of each student enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program based on rules adopted by the department and the use of

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a curriculum approved by the department under s. 1002.67(2)(c) and a staff development plan approved by the department to strengthen instructional practices in emotional support, classroom organization, instructional support, language development, phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, and mathematical thinking.

(6)

(d) A good cause exemption may not be granted to any private prekindergarten provider or public school that has any class I violations or three ~~two~~ or more of the same class II violations, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and Families, within the 2 years preceding the provider's or school's request for the exemption.

Section 4. Subsection (7) of section 1002.71, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.71 Funding; financial and attendance reporting.—

(7) The department shall require that administrative expenditures be kept to the minimum necessary for efficient and effective administration of the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Administrative policies and procedures shall be revised, to the maximum extent practicable, to incorporate the use of automation and electronic submission of forms, including those required for child eligibility and enrollment, provider and class registration, and monthly certification of attendance for payment. A school district may use its automated daily attendance reporting system for the purpose of transmitting attendance records to the early learning coalition in a mutually agreed-upon format. In addition, actions shall be taken to reduce paperwork, eliminate the duplication of reports,

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and eliminate other duplicative activities. Each early learning coalition may retain and expend no more than 5 ~~4.0~~ percent of the funds paid by the coalition to private prekindergarten providers and public schools under paragraph (5)(b). Funds retained by an early learning coalition under this subsection may be used only for administering the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and may not be used for the school readiness program or other programs.

Section 5. Paragraph (j) of subsection (2) of section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

(2) The department shall:

(j) Monitor the alignment and consistency of the standards and benchmarks developed and adopted by the department that address the age-appropriate progress of children in the development of school readiness skills. The standards for children from birth to kindergarten entry in the school readiness program must be aligned with the performance standards adopted for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program and must address the following domains:

1. Approaches to learning.
2. Cognitive development and general knowledge.
3. Numeracy, language, and communication.
4. Physical development.
5. Executive functioning ~~Self-regulation~~.

Section 6. Present subsections (5) through (16) of section 1002.83, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (6) through (17), respectively, a new subsection (5) is added to that section, and subsection (3) of that section is amended, to

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read:

1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

(3) The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other members of each early learning coalition, who must each meet the qualifications of a private sector business member under subsection (7) ~~(6)~~. In the absence of a governor-appointed chair, the Commissioner of Education may appoint an interim chair from the current early learning coalition board membership.

(5) Each early learning coalition may choose to appoint an additional public sector board member in order to include a representative of local law enforcement.

Section 7. Subsection (4) of section 1002.89, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

(4) COST REQUIREMENTS.—Costs shall be kept to the minimum necessary for the efficient and effective administration of the school readiness program with the highest priority of expenditure being direct services for eligible children. However, no more than 5 percent of the funds allocated in paragraph (1) (a) may be used for administrative costs and no more than 22 percent of the funds allocated in paragraph (1) (a) may be used in any fiscal year for any combination of administrative costs, quality activities, and nondirect services as follows:

(a) Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.54, which shall include monitoring providers using the standard methodology adopted under s. 1002.82 to improve compliance with state and federal regulations and law pursuant

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to the requirements of the statewide provider contract adopted under s. 1002.82(2) (m).

(b) Activities to improve the quality of child care as described in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.53, which shall be limited to the following:

1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents and the public to promote informed child care choices specified in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33.

2. Awarding grants and providing financial support to school readiness program providers and their staff to assist them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program assessment required under s. 1002.82(2) (n), child care performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate curricula and related classroom resources that support parent engagement curricula, ~~providing~~ literacy supports, ~~and~~ providing continued professional development through the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) Scholarship Program under s. 1002.95 and training aligned to the early learning professional development standards and career pathways under s. 1002.995, and reimbursement for background screenings and training. Any grants awarded pursuant to this subparagraph ~~must shall~~ comply with ss. 215.971 and 287.058.

3. Providing training aligned with the early learning professional development standards and career pathways under s. 1002.995, technical assistance, and financial support to school readiness program providers, staff, and parents on standards, child screenings, child assessments, ~~the child development~~

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233 ~~research and best practices,~~ developmentally appropriate
 234 curriculum under s. 1002.82(2)(1), executive functioning
 235 ~~curricula, character development,~~ teacher-child interactions,
 236 age-appropriate discipline practices, health and safety,
 237 nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the
 238 recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,
 239 prevention, and reporting.

240 4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the
 241 activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding
 242 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal
 243 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for
 244 infant and toddler care.

245 5. Improving the monitoring of compliance with, and
 246 enforcement of, applicable state and local requirements as
 247 described in and limited by 45 C.F.R. s. 98.40.

248 6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and
 249 parents, including providing developmental and health screenings
 250 to school readiness program children.

251 (c) Nondirect services as described in applicable Office of
 252 Management and Budget instructions are those services not
 253 defined as administrative, direct, or quality services that are
 254 required to administer the school readiness program. Such
 255 services include, but are not limited to:

- 256 1. Assisting families to complete the required application
- 257 and eligibility documentation.
- 258 2. Determining child and family eligibility.
- 259 3. Recruiting eligible child care providers.
- 260 4. Processing and tracking attendance records.
- 261 5. Developing and maintaining a statewide child care

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262 information system.

263
 264 As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect services" does
 265 not include payments to school readiness program providers for
 266 direct services provided to children who are eligible under s.
 267 1002.87, administrative costs as described in paragraph (a), or
 268 quality activities as described in paragraph (b).

269 Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section
 270 1008.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

271 1008.25 Public school student progression; student support;
 272 coordinated screening and progress monitoring; reporting
 273 requirements.-

274 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.-

275 (b) A Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program student
 276 who has attended at least 80 percent of the school year program
 277 and who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy
 278 skills as identified by the performance standards adopted under
 279 s. 1002.67(1)(a) and scores below the 20th percentile on based
 280 upon the results of the administration of the final
 281 administration of the coordinated screening and progress
 282 monitoring under subsection (9) is shall be referred to the
 283 local school district and may be eligible to receive early
 284 literacy instructional support through a summer bridge program
 285 the summer instruction in early literacy skills before
 286 participating in kindergarten. The summer bridge program must
 287 meet the requirements adopted by the department and consist of 4
 288 hours of instruction per day for a minimum of 100 total hours.
 289 Such early literacy skill instructional support must be paid for
 290 with funds from the district's evidence-based reading

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291 instruction allocation in accordance with s. 1003.4201 ~~A student~~
292 ~~with an individual education plan who has been retained pursuant~~
293 ~~to paragraph (2)(g) and has demonstrated a substantial~~
294 ~~deficiency in early literacy skills must receive instruction in~~
295 ~~early literacy skills.~~

296 Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

1/17/24
Meeting Date

1026
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Early Learning

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Edward Briggs

Job Title _____

Address _____
Street

Phone 850 933 5994

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Helios Education Foundation

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

1/17/24

Meeting Date

Education PreK-12

Committee

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

SB 1026 Early Learning

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name **Michele Watson**

Phone **850-320-2388**

Address **1203 Governor's Square Blvd.**

Email **mwatson@FACCT.com**

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32301

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

**Florida Alliance of Children's
Councils & Trusts**

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

1.17.24

Meeting Date

EDUCATION PREK-12

Committee

1026

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Name DAVID DANIEL Phone _____

Address 311 EAST PARK AVENUE Email ddaniel@smithbryanandmyer.com
Street

TALLAHASSEE FL 32301
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR CHILD CARE MANAGEMENT

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

412K

1/17/24 830

Meeting Date

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

1026

Bill Number or Topic

Education Pre-K

Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Karen Mazzola, Florida PTA

Phone

407-855-7604

Address

1747 Orlando Central Pkwy

Street

Email

vp.education@floridapta.org

Orlando

City

FL

State

32809

Zip

Speaking:



For



Against



Information

OR

Waive Speaking:



In Support



Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

FLPTA

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

BILL: CS/SB 460

INTRODUCER: Education Pre-K - 12 Committee and Senators Simon and Perry

SUBJECT: Career and Technical Education

DATE: January 18, 2024

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Brick	Bouck	ED	Fav/CS
2.			AED	
3.			FP	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 460 aims to enhance vocational and technical education. The bill authorizes minors aged 16 or 17 to work in construction if the minor:

- Has earned his or her Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10 certification;
- Is under the direct supervision of a person 21 years of age or older with at least two years of related experience and his or her OSHA 10 certification.
- Is not working on any scaffolding, roof, superstructure, or ladder above 6 feet.
- Is not in violation of any OSHA rule or federal law related to minors in the workplace.

The bill repeals the authority for counties and municipalities to issue journeyman licenses in the electrical and alarm system trades.

The bill authorizes district school boards to satisfy the career fair requirement through consulting with specified groups to determine free or cost-effective methods to provide other career and industry networking opportunities,.

The bill authorizes a student who earns credit for one year of related technical instruction for a registered apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program to use such credit to satisfy high school graduation credit requirements.

The bill provides an exemption from the career education basic skills assessment to certain students with a private school diploma or home education affidavit.

Lastly, the bill creates the Career and Technical Education Task Force to study the status of CTE in each school district within the state.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

II. Present Situation:

Hazardous Occupations Prohibited

Prohibitions regarding the employment of minors age 16 or 17 in hazardous occupations in Florida are consistent with regulations adopted by the United States (US) Secretary of Labor.¹ No minor under 18 years of age, whether such person's disabilities of nonage have been removed, may be employed or permitted or suffered to work on any scaffolding, roof, superstructure, residential or nonresidential building construction, or ladder above 6 feet.² This prohibition does not apply to a student learner who:³

- Is enrolled in a youth vocational training program under a recognized state or local educational authority.
- Is employed under a written agreement that provides:
 - That the work of the student learner in the occupation declared particularly hazardous shall be incidental to the training.
 - That such work will be intermittent and for short periods of time and under the direct and close supervision of a qualified and experienced person.
 - That safety instructions shall be given by the school and correlated by the employer with on-the-job training.
 - That a schedule of organized and progressive work processes to be performed on the job shall have been prepared.

Every employer in the construction industry is required to secure the payment of workers' compensation to his or her employees.⁴ Employers who fail to secure the payment of workers' compensation for their employees are required to stop working and are liable for administrative and criminal penalties.⁵ Employers must provide this benefit to all employees, including minors, whether lawfully or unlawfully employed.⁶

Employers are also required to provide certain training for their employees.⁷ Employers are required to instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the

¹ Compare s. 450.061, F.S., with 29 CFR Part 570, Subpart E (Occupations Particularly Hazardous for the Employment of Minors Between 16 and 18 Years of Age or Detrimental to Their Health or Well-Being). However, the Secretary of Labor has not selected residential construction as a particularly hazardous activity. See 3 EMP. COORD. *Compensation IV* s. 24.20 (Jan. 2024).

² Section 450.061(2)(b), F.S.

³ Sections 450.061(2) and 450.161, F.S.

⁴ Sections 440.10(1)(a) and 440.38(1), F.S.

⁵ See ss. 440.105 and 440.107, F.S.

⁶ Section 440.02(18)(a), F.S.

⁷ 29 CFR s. 1926.21.

regulations applicable to his work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury.⁸ Employers are encouraged to use the safety and health training programs provided by the Secretary of Labor.⁹

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) within the US Department of Labor, provides an Outreach Training Program to promote workplace safety and health and to make workers more knowledgeable about workplace hazards and their rights.¹⁰ The OSHA Outreach Training Program provides training on the recognition, avoidance, abatement, and prevention of workplace hazards. Outreach classes also provide overview information regarding OSHA, including workers' rights, employer responsibilities, and how to file a complaint.¹¹

The 10-hour training program is primarily intended for entry level workers. The 30-hour training program is intended to provide workers with some safety responsibility a greater depth and variety of training. All outreach training is intended to cover an overview of the hazards a worker may encounter on a job site. Training emphasizes hazard identification, avoidance, control and prevention, not OSHA standards.¹²

In the Fiscal Year 2023, 1,341,168 individuals were trained through the Outreach Training Program.¹³ The construction 10-hour certification comprised 42 percent of the trainings.¹⁴

Apprentices and Journeyworkers

Florida law defines an apprentice as a person at least 16 years of age who has entered into a written apprentice agreement with an employer, an association of employers, or a local joint apprenticeship committee, to learn a recognized skilled trade through actual work experience under the supervision of another worker who has completed an apprenticeship program or has worked in the field for a minimum number of years established by industry standard. Training for an apprentice should be combined with properly coordinated studies of related technical and supplementary subjects.¹⁵

An apprenticeship program must be registered and approved by the Department of Education (DOE).¹⁶ A student who earns credit upon completion of a registered apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program may use such credit to satisfy high school graduation credit requirements for fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or career and technical education, or electives. The State Board of Education (SBE) is required to approve and identify in the Course

⁸ 29 CFR s. 1926.21(b)(2).

⁹ 29 CFR s. 1926.21(b)(1).

¹⁰ USDOL, OSHA, *Outreach Training Program: Program Overview*, <https://www.osha.gov/training/outreach/overview> (last visited Jan. 11, 2024).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² USDOL, OSHA, *Outreach Training Program: Program Overview*, <https://www.osha.gov/training/outreach/overview> (last visited Jan. 11, 2024).

¹³ USDOL, OSHA, *Outreach Training Program Annual Number of Trainees*, <https://www.osha.gov/training/outreach/growth> (last visited Jan. 11, 2024).

¹⁴ USDOL, OSHA, *Number of Trainees by Class Type*, <https://www.osha.gov/training/outreach/growth#tab2> (last visited Jan. 11, 2024).

¹⁵ Section 446.021(2), F.S.

¹⁶ Section 446.021(6), F.S.

Code Directory the apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs from which earned credit may be used to satisfy high school graduation requirements.¹⁷

The term of an apprenticeship may be completed through either a time-based approach, a competency-based approach, or a hybrid approach, as follows:¹⁸

- The time-based approach measures skill acquisition through the apprentice's completion of at least 2,000 hours of on-the-job training, exclusive of related technical instruction.
- The competency-based approach measures the apprentice's successful demonstration of acquired skills and knowledge, demonstrated through on-the-job training and related technical instruction.
- The hybrid approach measures the individual apprentice's skill acquisition through a combination of a range of specified number of hours of on-the-job training and the successful demonstration of competency.

Florida apprenticeship standards define a journeyworker as a person working in an apprenticeable occupation who has successfully completed a registered apprenticeship program or who has worked the number of years required by established industry practices for the particular trade or occupation.¹⁹

Counties and municipalities are authorized to issue journeyman licenses in the electrical and alarm system trades.²⁰ An individual who holds a valid, active journeyman license in the electrical or alarm system trade issued by any county or municipality may work as a journeyman in the trade in which he or she is licensed in any other county or municipality without taking an additional examination or paying an additional license fee, if he or she:²¹

- Has scored at least 70 percent, or after October 1, 1997, at least 75 percent, on a proctored journeyman Block and Associates examination or other proctored examination approved by the board for the trade in which he or she is licensed;
- Has completed a registered apprenticeship program and demonstrates 4 years' verifiable practical experience in the trade for which he or she is licensed, or demonstrates 6 years' verifiable practical experience in the trade for which he or she is licensed;
- Has satisfactorily completed specialized and advanced module coursework approved by the Florida Building Commission, as part of the building code compliance and mitigation training program,²² specific to the discipline or, pursuant to authorization by the certifying authority, provides proof of completion of such curriculum or coursework within 6 months after such certification; and
- Has not had a license suspended or revoked within the last 5 years.

A local government may charge a registration fee for reciprocity, not to exceed \$25.²³ Subject to limited exceptions,²⁴ state law related to electrical and alarm system contracting does not limit

¹⁷ Section 1003.4282(7)(a)3., F.S.

¹⁸ Rule 6A-23.004(2), F.A.C.

¹⁹ Section 446.021(4), F.S.

²⁰ Section 489.5335(1), F.S.

²¹ Section 489.5335(2), F.S.

²² Section 553.841, F.S.

²³ Section 489.5335(3), F.S.

²⁴ See s. 489.503, F.S.

the power of a municipality or county to require that one electrical journeyman, who is a graduate of the Institute of Applied Technology in Construction Excellence or licensed locally, be present on an industrial or commercial new construction site with a facility of 50,000 gross square feet or more when electrical work in excess of 77 volts is being performed in order to supervise or perform such work.²⁵

Career Fairs

Each district school board must require each high school within its jurisdiction to host an annual career fair during the school year and establish a process to provide students in grades 11 and 12 the opportunity to meet or interview with potential employers during the career fair.²⁶ The career fair must be held on the campus of the high school, except that a group of high schools in the district or a group of districts may hold a joint career fair at an alternative location. A joint career fair must be held at a location located within reasonable driving distance for students at all participating schools. The career fair must be held during the school day and may use Florida's online career planning and work-based learning system as part of the career fair activities.²⁷

State Academic Standards

The state academic standards establish the core content of the curricula to be taught in the state and specify the core content knowledge and skills that K-12 public school students are expected to acquire.²⁸ Standards must be rigorous and relevant and provide for the logical, sequential progression of core curricular content that incrementally increases a student's core content knowledge and skills over time. Curricular content for all subjects must integrate critical-thinking, problem-solving, and workforce-literacy skills; communication, reading, and writing skills; mathematics skills; collaboration skills; contextual and applied-learning skills; technology-literacy skills; information and media-literacy skills; and civic-engagement skills.²⁹

The standards must include distinct grade-level expectations for the core content knowledge and skills that a student is expected to have acquired by each individual grade level from kindergarten through grade 8. The standards for grades 9 through 12 may be organized by grade clusters of more than one grade level except as otherwise provided for visual and performing arts, physical education, health, and foreign language standards.³⁰

The Commissioner of Education (commissioner), as needed, is required to develop and submit proposed revisions to the standards for review and comment by Florida educators, school administrators, representatives of the Florida College System institutions and state universities who have expertise in the content knowledge and skills necessary to prepare a student for postsecondary education and careers, business and industry leaders, and the public. The

²⁵ Section 489.537(3)(f), F.S.

²⁶ Section 1001.43(14), F.S.

²⁷ Section 1001.43(14), F.S.

²⁸ Section 1003.41(1), F.S.

²⁹ Section 1003.41(1), F.S.

³⁰ *Id.*

commissioner, after considering reviews and comments, must submit the proposed revisions to the SBE for adoption.³¹

CAPE Industry Certification Funding List

The SBE is required to adopt, at least annually, based on recommendations by the commissioner, the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List that assigns additional full-time equivalent membership to certifications identified in the Master Credentials List that meet a statewide, regional, or local demand.³²

Certifications included on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List:³³

- Require at least 150 hours of instruction and
- Can be earned in middle and high school.
- Usually require passage of a subject area examination and some combination of work experience, educational attainment, or on-the-job training.

Requirements for Career Education Basic Skills

Each career and technical education (CTE) career certificate program, 450 clock hours or longer, includes associated basic academic skills (reading, mathematics, and language) that are required for completion from each CTE program. For the purpose of CTE and basic skills requirements, completion is accomplished when a student has demonstrated mastery of the entire program's standards and benchmarks and receives a Career Certificate of Completion.³⁴

Students who enroll in a program offered for career credit of 450 hours or more must complete an entry-level examination within the first six weeks after admission into the program.³⁵ The State Board of Education (SBE) designates examinations to assess student mastery of basic skills, which include the following:³⁶

- Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE), Forms 11 and 12, 2017;
- Demonstration of basic communication and computation skills;³⁷
- Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS), GOALS 900 Series, 2019;
- 2014 GED® Tests: Reasoning through Language Arts and Mathematical Reasoning where a minimum score as determined by the SBE has been attained on each test;³⁸ and

³¹ Section 1003.41(3), F.S.

³² Section 1008.44(1), F.S.

³³ Rule 6A-6.0576(5)-(6), F.S.

³⁴ Florida Department of Education, *Career and Technical Education, 2019-2020 Technical Assistance Paper, CTE Basic Skills Assessment Requirements* (Mar. 2020), available at <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5398/urlt/basic-skill-tap-att1.pdf>, at 2. The basic skills are exit, not entry requirements.

³⁵ Section 1004.91(2), F.S.

³⁶ Rule 6A-10.040(1), F.A.C.

³⁷ The SBE determines the acceptable methods of demonstrating basic communication and computation skills. Methods include, but are not limited to, achieving a specified score on a common placement test such as the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test, the SAT, and the ACT, or specified performance in high school coursework. *See* Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C.

³⁸ A student must attain a minimum score of 145 on Reasoning through Language Arts and Mathematical Reasoning. Rule 6A-6.0201, F.A.C.

- A test adopted by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, used for admission into law enforcement or corrections training programs.³⁹

Any student who lacks the required level of basic skills for the career program must be provided with a structured program of basic skills instruction to correct deficiencies.⁴⁰ A student may not receive a career or technical certificate of completion without first demonstrating the basic skills required in the state curriculum frameworks for the career education program.⁴¹

An adult with a disability⁴² may be exempted from the basic skills assessment requirement. In addition, the following students are exempt from taking the initial basic skills assessment:⁴³

- A student who possesses a college degree at the associate in applied science level or higher.
- A student who demonstrates readiness for public postsecondary education in communication and computation specified in SBE rule.⁴⁴
- A student who passes a specified state, national or industry certification or licensure examination that is aligned to the career education program.⁴⁵
- An adult student who is enrolled in an apprenticeship program that is registered with the Department of Education.

Executive Task Forces

A “task force” is an advisory body created without specific statutory enactment for a time not to exceed 1 year or created by specific statutory enactment for a time not to exceed 3 years and appointed to study a specific problem and recommend a solution or policy alternative with respect to that problem. Its existence terminates upon the completion of its assignment.⁴⁶

The task force must keep the Legislature and the public informed of the numbers, purposes, memberships, activities, and expenses of advisory bodies, commissions, boards of trustees, and other collegial bodies established as adjuncts to executive agencies.⁴⁷ A task force has the following characteristics:⁴⁸

- It meets a statutorily defined purpose.

³⁹ Applicants who apply for entry into a Commission-approved Basic Recruit Training Program are required to obtain a passing score on a Commission-approved Basic Abilities Test for the law enforcement or correctional disciplines, prior to entering a program. Rule 11B-35.0011, F.A.C.

⁴⁰ Section 1004.91(2), F.S. *See also* Rule 6A-10.040, F.A.C.

⁴¹ Section 1004.91(2), F.S.

⁴² An adult with disability means an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment, and who requires modifications to the educational program, adaptive equipment, or specialized instructional methods and services in order to participate in workforce development programs that lead to competitive employment. Section 1004.02(6), F.S.

⁴³ Section 1004.91(3), F.S.

⁴⁴ Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C.

⁴⁵ Section 943.17(1)(g), F.S., requires students in a career certificate program in law enforcement and corrections to complete a basic skills examination, based on FDLE rather than SBE standards, prior to entrance into the program. Law enforcement and correctional officer students are exempt from the basic skills requirement in s. 1004.91, F.S., because such students are required to pass the State Officer Certification Examination. Florida Department of Law Enforcement, *2024 FDLE Legislative Bill Analysis of SB 622* (Dec. 8, 2023), at 2.

⁴⁶ Section 20.03(5), F.S.

⁴⁷ Section 20.052(3), F.S.

⁴⁸ Section 20.052(4), F.S.

- Its members, unless expressly provided otherwise in the State Constitution, are appointed for 4-year staggered terms.
- Its members, unless expressly provided otherwise by specific statutory enactment, serve without additional compensation or honorarium, and are authorized to receive only per diem and reimbursement for travel expenses.
- The private citizen members must be appointed by the Governor, the head of the department, the executive director of the department, or a Cabinet officer.
- Its meetings are public meetings, which must be open to the public at all times, and no resolution, rule, or formal action may be considered binding except as taken or made in public.⁴⁹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

CS/SB 460 aims to enhance vocational and technical education. The bill authorizes minors aged 16 or 17 to work in construction if the minor:

- Has earned his or her Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10 certification;
- Is under the direct supervision of a person 21 years of age or older with at least two years of related experience and his or her OSHA 10 certification.
- Is not working on any scaffolding, roof, superstructure, or ladder above 6 feet.
- Is not in violation of any OSHA rule or federal law related to minors in the workplace.

The bill repeals the authority for counties and municipalities to issue journeyman licenses in the electrical and alarm system trades.

The bill authorizes district school boards to satisfy the career fair requirement through consulting with specified groups to determine free or cost-effective methods to provide other career and industry networking opportunities,.

The bill authorizes a student who earns credit for one year of related technical instruction for a registered apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program to use such credit to satisfy high school graduation credit requirements.

The bill provides an exemption from the career education basic skills assessment to certain students with a private school diploma or home education affidavit.

Lastly, the bill creates the Career and Technical Education Task Force to study the status of CTE in each school district within the state

Hazardous Occupations Prohibited

The bill amends s. 450.061, F.S., to authorize a minor aged 16 or 17 to be employed on any residential building construction if he or she:

- Has earned his or her OSHA 10 certification

⁴⁹ Section 286.011, F.S.

- Is under the direct supervision of a person at least 21 years of age who has earned his or her OSHA 10 certification and has at least 2 years of work experience related to the work he or she is supervising.
- Is not working on any scaffolding, roof, superstructure, or ladder above 6 feet.
- Is not working in violation of any OSHA rule or federal law related to minors in the workplace.

Apprentices and Journeyworkers

The bill repeals s. 489.5335, F.S., to remove the authority for counties and municipalities to issue journeyman licenses in the electrical and alarm system trades. Accordingly, the bill modifies s. 489.537, F.S., to remove a cross-reference to s. 489.5335, F.S.

Career Fairs

The bill amends s. 1001.43, F.S., to add an alternative to the required annual career fair hosted at each school district high school. The bill authorizes district school boards, as an alternative to the required career fair, to consult with local workforce development boards, advisory committees, and business groups to determine free or cost-effective methods to provide other career and industry networking opportunities, during the school day, for secondary students and exposure for elementary and secondary students to a representative variety of industries, businesses, and careers.

State Academic Standards

The bill modifies s. 1003.41, F.S., to add to the persons who the Commissioner of Education (commissioner) must include for review and comment on proposed revisions to the state standards to include a representative from the Department of Commerce and specifies that business and industry leaders are limited to those for in-demand careers.

Career and Technical Education Courses

The bill modifies s. 1003.4282, F.S., to change how apprentice and preapprenticeship programs may satisfy the high school graduation credit requirements for fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or career and technical education, or electives. The bill authorizes earned credit for completion of one year of related technical instruction in a registered apprenticeship or preapprenticeship program, rather than completion of the entire program, to satisfy the high school graduation credit requirements for fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or career and technical education, or electives.

Requirements for Career Education Basic Skills

The bill modifies s. 1004.91, F.S., to provide an exemption from postsecondary career education program basic skills requirements for a student who possesses a high school diploma from a private school, or, for a student in a home education program, a signed affidavit submitted by the student's parent attesting that the student has completed a home education program.

The Career and Technical Education Task Force

The bill creates the Career and Technical Education Task Force, adjunct to the DOE, to study the status of CTE in each school district within the state. The bill requires the DOE to provide administrative and staff support relating to the functions of the task force.

The Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Commissioner of Education, and the Secretary of the Department of Commerce are each required to appoint two members to the task force by September 1, 2024. The bill requires the commissioner to appoint a chair of the task force. The bill requires the task force to:

- Compile a list of CTE courses offered within each school district. Such data must be broken down by industry, grade level, location, the number of students enrolled in such courses, the number of students who complete such courses, and the total number of students per district enrolled in such courses.
- Compile a list of career and technical education courses offered through the Department of Corrections and Juvenile Justice. Such data must be broken down by location, population, industry course offering, the number of students enrolled in each course, and the number of students who complete such courses.
- Review existing postsecondary credits available for K-12 career and technical education course offerings and how this information is advertised to students and parents.
- Compare existing career and technical education course offerings with data from the Department of Commerce and industry leaders on in-demand careers and the state's economic needs.
- Identify the total funding provided for the CTE courses offered by school districts and analyze whether such funding is uniform across the state or if such funding varies by course or industry.
- Compare funding and reimbursement rates and timelines for CTE courses to funding and reimbursement rates and timelines for traditional K-12 education courses.
- Identify any additional funding available for additional CTE courses, including federal funding, industry funding, or additional state funding.
- Identify how CTE courses are advertised to parents and students.
- Identify the needs of school districts to expand CTE, including what needs could be met by the Legislature.
- Identify the number of students who earn an industry certification through CTE courses who also find employment in relevant industries.
- Provide recommendations for increasing funding, eliminating barriers to expanding career and technical education offerings, and streamlining regulations.
- Provide recommendations for improving the marketing of career and technical education offerings to students and parents.
- Provide recommendations for changes and expansions to CTE course offerings beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.

The bill requires the task force to submit a report of its findings to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the commissioner by September 1, 2025, and submit its recommendations by January 1, 2026. The task force expires upon submission of the recommendations.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 450.061, 489.537, 1001.43, 1003.41, 1003.4282, and 1004.91.

This bill repeals s. 489.5335 of the Florida Statutes.

The bill creates an undesignated section of Florida Law.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS in Education Pre-K – 12 on January 17, 2024:

The committee substitute narrows the exception provided in the bill to the prohibition on minors aged 16 to 17 working on scaffolding, roof, superstructure, or residential or nonresidential building construction, to apply the exception only to residential building construction. The committee substitute maintains the requirement that the exception only apply to minors with an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10 certification, who are supervised as provided in the bill.

The committee substitute removes the requirement of the bill that:

- High school career fairs include specific additional criteria, and instead authorizes district school boards, as an alternative to the required career fair, to consult with local workforce development boards, advisory committees, and business groups to determine free or cost-effective methods to provide other career and industry networking opportunities, during the school day, for secondary students and exposure for elementary and secondary students to a representative variety of industries, businesses, and careers.
- The specific curricular content established in the state academic standards for mathematics ensure the integration of real-life opportunities to use such curricular content.
- All courses directly related to CAPE Digital Tool or Industry Certifications be weighted the same as a grade in an honors course for purposes of calculating grade-point-average (GPA).
- Conditions high school credit for apprenticeship or preapprenticeship programs on the completion of OSHA 10 certification and maintains the provision of the bill authorizing students to use 1 year of related technical instruction (CTE) to satisfy high school credit requirements.
- Require the Department of Education (DOE) and the Board of Governors (BOG) to establish and publish lists related to articulation certain CTE credits.
- Increases the career-themed courses that district high school and middle schools must offer.
- Modifies the CAPE Act 3-year strategic plan, curriculum review committee, and the Commissioner of Education's annual review of CTE offerings.

The committee substitute adds to the bill:

- December 1, 2024, as a deadline for the Department of Education (DOE) to convene the workgroup to identify the three math pathways for students enrolled in secondary grades.
- An exemption from postsecondary career education program basic skills requirements for a student who possesses a high school diploma from a private school, or, for a student in a home education program, a signed affidavit submitted by the student's parent attesting that the student has completed a home education program.

The committee substitute removes from the bill the provision providing flexibility from certification requirements for district school boards in hiring non-degree CTE teachers.

The committee substitute adds to the CTE Task Force created in the bill the responsibility to:

- Compile a list of career and technical education courses offered through the Department of Corrections and Juvenile Justice. Such data must be broken down by location, population, industry course offering, the number of students enrolled in each course, and the number of students who complete such courses
- Review existing postsecondary credits available for K-12 career and technical education course offerings and how this information is advertised to students and parents.
- Compare existing career and technical education course offerings with data from the Department of Commerce and industry leaders on in-demand careers and the state's economic needs.
- Provide recommendations for increasing funding, eliminating barriers to expanding career and technical education offerings, and streamlining regulations.
- Provide recommendations for improving the marketing of career and technical education offerings to students and parents.

The committee substitute modifies the date for the task force to report on its findings to require the task force to submit its report by September 1, 2025, and its recommendations by January 1, 2026.

B. Amendments:

None.



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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
01/17/2024	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Education Pre-K -12 (Simon) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause
and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 450.061, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

450.061 Hazardous occupations prohibited; exemptions.—

(2) A ~~no~~ minor under 18 years of age, regardless of whether
such person's disabilities of nonage have been removed, may not
~~shall~~ be employed or permitted or suffered to work in any of the



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following places of employment or in any of the following occupations, provided that ~~the provisions of~~ paragraphs (b), (e), (g), (h), (j), (m), (o), and (q) do ~~shall~~ not apply to the employment of student learners under the conditions prescribed in s. 450.161:

(a) In or around explosive or radioactive materials.

(b) On any scaffolding, roof, superstructure, residential or nonresidential building construction, or ladder above 6 feet. A minor 16 or 17 years of age may be employed on any residential building construction if:

1. The minor 16 or 17 years of age has earned his or her Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10 certification and is under the direct supervision of a person who:

a. Has earned his or her Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10 certification.

b. Is 21 years of age or older.

c. Has at least 2 years of work experience related to the work he or she is supervising.

2. The minor 16 or 17 years of age is not working on any scaffolding, roof, superstructure, or ladder above 6 feet.

3. The work being performed by the minor 16 or 17 years of age is not in violation of any Occupational Safety and Health Administration rule or federal law related to minors in the workplace.

(c) In or around toxic substances or corrosives, including pesticides or herbicides, unless proper field entry time allowances have been followed.

(d) Any mining occupation.

(e) In the operation of power-driven woodworking machines.



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(f) In the operation of power-driven hoisting apparatus.

(g) In the operation of power-driven metal forming, punching, or shearing machines.

(h) Slaughtering, meat packing, processing, or rendering, except as provided in 29 C.F.R. s. 570.61(c).

(i) In the operation of power-driven bakery machinery.

(j) In the operation of power-driven paper products and printing machines.

(k) Manufacturing brick, tile, and like products.

(l) Wrecking or demolition.

(m) Excavation operations.

(n) Logging or sawmilling.

(o) Working on electric apparatus or wiring.

(p) Firefighting.

(q) Operating or assisting to operate, including starting, stopping, connecting or disconnecting, feeding, or any other activity involving physical contact associated with operating, a tractor over 20 PTO horsepower, any trencher or earthmoving equipment, fork lift, or any harvesting, planting, or plowing machinery, or any moving machinery.

Section 2. Section 489.5335, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 3. Paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of section 489.537, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

489.537 Application of this part.—

(3) Nothing in this act limits the power of a municipality or county:

(f) To require that one electrical journeyman, who is a graduate of the Institute of Applied Technology in Construction Excellence ~~or licensed pursuant to s. 489.5335,~~ be present on an



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industrial or commercial new construction site with a facility of 50,000 gross square feet or more when electrical work in excess of 77 volts is being performed in order to supervise or perform such work, except as provided in s. 489.503.

Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (14) of section 1001.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.43 Supplemental powers and duties of district school board.—The district school board may exercise the following supplemental powers and duties as authorized by this code or State Board of Education rule.

(14) RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC AND CAREER ACHIEVEMENT.—

(c) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, each district school board shall require each high school within its jurisdiction to host an annual career fair during the school year and establish a process to provide students in grades 11 and 12 the opportunity to meet or interview with potential employers during the career fair. The career fair must be held on the campus of the high school, except that a group of high schools in the district or a group of districts may hold a joint career fair at an alternative location to satisfy the requirement in this paragraph. A joint career fair must be held at a location located within reasonable driving distance for students at all participating schools. The career fair must be held during the school day and may use Florida's online career planning and work-based learning system as part of the career fair activities. Alternatively, district school boards may consult with local workforce development boards, advisory committees, and business groups to determine free or cost-effective methods to provide other career and industry



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networking opportunities, during the school day, for secondary students and exposure for elementary and secondary students to a representative variety of industries, businesses, and careers.

District school board policies and procedures may include conducting assemblies or other appropriate public events in which students sign actual or ceremonial documents accepting scholarships or enrollment. The district school board may encourage holding such events in an assembly or gathering of the entire student body as a means of making academic and career success and recognition visible to all students.

Section 5. Subsection (3) of section 1003.41, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.41 State academic standards.—

(3) The Commissioner of Education shall, as deemed necessary ~~needed~~, ~~shall~~ develop and submit proposed revisions to the standards for review and comment by Florida educators, school administrators, representatives of the Florida College System institutions and state universities who have expertise in the content knowledge and skills necessary to prepare a student for postsecondary education and careers, a representative from the Department of Commerce, business and industry leaders for in-demand careers, and the public. The commissioner, after considering reviews and comments, shall submit the proposed revisions to the State Board of Education for adoption.

Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) and subsection (10) of section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—



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(7) CAREER EDUCATION COURSES THAT SATISFY HIGH SCHOOL
CREDIT REQUIREMENTS.—

(a) Participation in career education courses engages students in their high school education, increases academic achievement, enhances employability, and increases postsecondary success. The department shall develop, for approval by the State Board of Education, multiple, additional career education courses or a series of courses that meet the requirements set forth in s. 1003.493(2), (4), and (5) and this subsection and allow students to earn credit in both the career education course and courses required for high school graduation under this section and s. 1003.4281.

1. The state board must determine at least biennially whether ~~if~~ sufficient academic standards are covered to warrant the award of academic credit, including satisfaction of graduation, assessment, and state university admissions requirements under this section.

2. Career education courses must:

a. Include workforce and digital literacy skills.

b. Integrate required course content with practical applications and designated rigorous coursework that results in one or more industry certifications or clearly articulated credit or advanced standing in a 2-year or 4-year certificate or degree program, which may include high school junior and senior year work-related internships or apprenticeships. The department shall negotiate state licenses for material and testing for industry certifications.

The instructional methodology used in these courses must



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comprise authentic projects, problems, and activities for contextual academic learning and emphasize workplace skills identified under s. 445.06.

3. A student who earns credit upon completion of 1 year of related technical instruction for an apprenticeship program registered with the Department of Education under chapter 446 or preapprenticeship program registered with the Department of Education under chapter 446 may use such credit to satisfy the high school graduation credit requirements in paragraph (3)(e) or paragraph (3)(g). The state board shall approve and identify in the Course Code Directory the apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs from which earned credit may be used pursuant to this subparagraph.

4. The State Board of Education shall, by rule, establish a process that enables a student to receive work-based learning credit or credit in electives for completing a threshold level of demonstrable participation in extracurricular activities associated with career and technical student organizations. Work-based learning credit or credit in electives for extracurricular activities or supervised agricultural experiences may not be limited by grade level.

(10) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CREDIT.—The Department of Education shall convene a workgroup, no later than December 1, 2024, to:

(a) Identify best practices in career and technical education pathways from middle school to high school to aid middle school students in career planning and facilitate their transition to high school programs. The career pathway must be linked to postsecondary programs.



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(b) Establish three mathematics pathways for students enrolled in secondary grades by aligning mathematics courses to programs, postsecondary education, and careers. The workgroup shall collaborate to identify the three mathematics pathways and the mathematics course sequence within each pathway which align to the mathematics skills needed for success in the corresponding academic programs, postsecondary education, and careers.

Section 7. Subsection (3) of section 1004.91, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.91 Requirements for career education program basic skills.—

(3)(a) An adult student with a disability may be exempted from this section.

(b) The following students are exempt from this section:

1. A student who possesses a college degree at the associate in applied science level or higher.

2. A student who demonstrates readiness for public postsecondary education pursuant to s. 1008.30 and applicable rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

3. Beginning with students graduating in 2007 and thereafter, a student who possesses a high school diploma from a private school in compliance with s. 1002.42, or, for a student in a home education program, a signed affidavit submitted by the student's parent or legal guardian attesting that the student has completed a home education program pursuant to the requirements of s. 1002.41.

4. A student who passes a state or national industry certification or licensure examination that is identified in



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State Board of Education rules and aligned to the career education program in which the student is enrolled.

~~5.4.~~ An adult student who is enrolled in an apprenticeship program that is registered with the Department of Education in accordance with chapter 446.

Section 8. (1) The Career and Technical Education Task Force, a task force as defined in s. 20.03(5), Florida Statutes, is created adjunct to the Department of Education to study the status of career and technical education in each school district within this state. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the task force shall operate in a manner consistent with s. 20.052, Florida Statutes. The department shall provide administrative and staff support relating to the functions of the task force.

(2) The Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Commissioner of Education, and the Secretary of the Department of Commerce shall each appoint two members to the task force by September 1, 2024. The commissioner shall appoint a chair of the task force.

(3) The task force shall do all of the following:

(a) Compile a list of career and technical education courses offered within each school district. Such data must be broken down by industry, grade level, location, the number of students enrolled in such courses, the number of students who complete such courses, and the total number of students per district enrolled in such courses.

(b) Compile a list of career and technical education courses offered through the Department of Corrections and Juvenile Justice. Such data must be broken down by location,



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population, industry course offering, the number of students enrolled in each course, and the number of students who complete such courses.

(c) Identify the total funding provided for the career and technical education courses offered through school districts and analyze whether such funding is uniform across the state or whether it varies by course or industry.

(d) Compare funding and reimbursement rates and timelines for career and technical education courses to funding and reimbursement rates and timelines for traditional K-12 education courses.

(e) Identify any additional funding available for additional career and technical education courses, including federal funding, industry funding, or additional state funding.

(f) Identify how career and technical education courses are advertised to parents and students.

(g) Identify the needs of school districts to expand career and technical education, including what needs could be met by the Legislature.

(h) Identify the number of students who earn an industry certification through career and technical education courses who also find employment in relevant industries.

(i) Review existing postsecondary credits available for K-12 career and technical education course offerings and how this information is advertised to students and parents.

(j) Compare existing career and technical education course offerings with data from the Department of Commerce and industry leaders on in-demand careers and the state's economic needs.

(k) Provide recommendations for changes and expansions to



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career and technical education course offerings beginning in the
2026-2027 school year.

(l) Provide recommendations for increasing funding,
eliminating barriers to expanding career and technical education
offerings, and streamlining regulations.

(m) Provide recommendations for improving the marketing of
career and technical education offerings to students and
parents.

(4) The task force shall submit to the Governor, the
President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education a report of
its findings by September 1, 2025, and its recommendations by
January 1, 2026. This section shall expire upon submission of
the recommendations.

Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause
and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to career and technical education;
amending s. 450.061, F.S.; providing an exemption for
minors to work in specified conditions; repealing s.
489.5335, F.S., relating to journeyman reciprocity;
amending s. 489.537, F.S.; conforming a provision to
changes made by the act; amending s. 1001.43, F.S.;
providing an alternative to career fairs through other
career and industry networking opportunities; amending



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s. 1003.41, F.S.; revising a list of individuals who are required to review and comment on certain revisions to the state academic standards; making technical changes; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; revising the requirements for certain credits and certifications to meet specified graduation requirements; requiring the Department of Education to convene a workgroup by a specified date for specified purposes; making a technical change; amending s. 1004.91, F.S.; providing an additional exemption from completing an entry-level examination for certain students; creating the Career and Technical Education Task Force adjunct to the Department of Education; providing the purpose of the task force; providing the membership and duties of the task force; requiring the task force to submit a report to certain officials by a specified date; providing for expiration of the task force; providing an effective date.

By Senator Simon

3-00872-24

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1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to career and technical education;
 3 amending s. 450.061, F.S.; providing an exemption for
 4 minors to work in specified conditions; repealing s.
 5 489.5335, F.S., relating to journeyman reciprocity;
 6 amending s. 489.537, F.S.; conforming provisions to
 7 changes made by the act; amending s. 1001.43, F.S.;
 8 revising the requirements for an annual career fair to
 9 include allowing certain employers to meet with
 10 students regarding career and technical education;
 11 amending s. 1003.41, F.S.; revising the mathematics
 12 standards within the state academic standards;
 13 revising a list of individuals who are required to
 14 review and comment on certain revisions to the state
 15 academic standards; amending s. 1003.4203, F.S.;
 16 revising the requirements for certain courses to
 17 receive the same rate as honors courses for purposes
 18 of student grade point averages; amending s.
 19 1003.4282, F.S.; revising the requirements for certain
 20 credits and certifications to meet specified
 21 graduation requirements; amending s. 1003.491, F.S.;
 22 revising the requirements for a specified 3-year
 23 strategic plan relating to career and professional
 24 education; requiring the curriculum review committee
 25 to review the Applied Construction Mathematics course
 26 for inclusion in the course code directory; revising
 27 the requirements for an annual review of K-12 and
 28 postsecondary career and technical education
 29 offerings; amending s. 1003.493, F.S.; requiring the

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30 Department of Education and the Board of Governors to
 31 annually post specified information to their
 32 respective websites; revising the amount of career-
 33 themed courses school districts must offer for
 34 specified grades; revising duties of the Department of
 35 Education relating to the award of specified
 36 postsecondary credits; amending s. 1003.4935, F.S.;
 37 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
 38 amending s. 1012.39, F.S.; revising the qualifications
 39 for specified teachers of career programs; creating
 40 the Career and Technical Education Task Force adjunct
 41 to the Department of Education; providing the purpose
 42 of the task force; providing the membership and duties
 43 of the task force; requiring the task force to submit
 44 a report to certain officials by a specified date;
 45 providing for expiration of the task force; providing
 46 an effective date.

47
 48 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

49
 50 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 450.061, Florida
 51 Statutes, is amended to read:

52 450.061 Hazardous occupations prohibited; exemptions.—

53 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a ~~no~~ minor under
 54 18 years of age, whether such person's disabilities of nonage
 55 have been removed, may not ~~shall~~ be employed or permitted or
 56 suffered to work in any of the following places of employment or
 57 in any of the following occupations, provided that the
 58 provisions of paragraphs (b), (e), (g), (h), (j), (m), (o), and

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(q) shall not apply to the employment of student learners under the conditions prescribed in s. 450.161:

(a) In or around explosive or radioactive materials.

(b) On any scaffolding, roof, superstructure, residential or nonresidential building construction, or ladder above 6 feet. A minor aged 16 or 17 may be employed on any scaffolding roof, superstructure, or residential or nonresidential building construction if he or she has earned his or her Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10 certification and is under the direct supervision of a person who:

1. Has earned his or her Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10 certification.

2. Is 21 years of age or older.

3. Has at least 2 years of work experience related to the work he or she is supervising.

(c) In or around toxic substances or corrosives, including pesticides or herbicides, unless proper field entry time allowances have been followed.

(d) Any mining occupation.

(e) In the operation of power-driven woodworking machines.

(f) In the operation of power-driven hoisting apparatus.

(g) In the operation of power-driven metal forming, punching, or shearing machines.

(h) Slaughtering, meat packing, processing, or rendering, except as provided in 29 C.F.R. s. 570.61(c).

(i) In the operation of power-driven bakery machinery.

(j) In the operation of power-driven paper products and printing machines.

(k) Manufacturing brick, tile, and like products.

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(l) Wrecking or demolition.

(m) Excavation operations.

(n) Logging or sawmilling.

(o) Working on electric apparatus or wiring.

(p) Firefighting.

(q) Operating or assisting to operate, including starting, stopping, connecting or disconnecting, feeding, or any other activity involving physical contact associated with operating, a tractor over 20 PTO horsepower, any trencher or earthmoving equipment, fork lift, or any harvesting, planting, or plowing machinery, or any moving machinery.

Section 2. Section 489.5335, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

Section 3. Paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of section 489.537, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

489.537 Application of this part.—

(3) Nothing in this act limits the power of a municipality or county:

(f) To require that one electrical journeyman, who is a graduate of the Institute of Applied Technology in Construction Excellence ~~or licensed pursuant to s. 489.5335,~~ be present on an industrial or commercial new construction site with a facility of 50,000 gross square feet or more when electrical work in excess of 77 volts is being performed in order to supervise or perform such work, except as provided in s. 489.503.

Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (14) of section 1001.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1001.43 Supplemental powers and duties of district school board.—The district school board may exercise the following supplemental powers and duties as authorized by this code or

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State Board of Education rule.

(14) RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC AND CAREER ACHIEVEMENT.—

(c) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, each district school board shall require each high school within its jurisdiction to host an annual career fair and industry recruitment day during the school year and establish a process to provide students in grades 11 and 12 the opportunity to meet or interview with potential employers during the career fair and, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, allow employers from industries listed on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List, including employers from the agricultural, construction, culinary, and nursing industries, to meet with other students to explain how career and technical education can result in a high-wage career in a high-demand industry. The career fair must be held on the campus of the high school, except that a group of high schools in the district or a group of districts may hold a joint career fair at an alternative location to satisfy the requirement in this paragraph. A joint career fair must be held at a location located within reasonable driving distance for students at all participating schools. The career fair must be held during the school day and may use Florida's online career planning and work-based learning system as part of the career fair activities.

District school board policies and procedures may include conducting assemblies or other appropriate public events in which students sign actual or ceremonial documents accepting scholarships or enrollment. The district school board may encourage holding such events in an assembly or gathering of the

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entire student body as a means of making academic and career success and recognition visible to all students.

Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) and subsection (3) of section 1003.41, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 1003.41 State academic standards.—

(2) The state academic standards must meet the following requirements:

(c) Mathematics standards must establish specific curricular content for, at a minimum, algebra, geometry, statistics and probability, number and quantity, functions, and modeling and ensure the integration of real-life opportunities to use such curricular content.

(3) The Commissioner of Education, as needed, shall develop and submit proposed revisions to the standards for review and comment by Florida educators, school administrators, representatives of the Florida College System institutions and state universities who have expertise in the content knowledge and skills necessary to prepare a student for postsecondary education and careers, a representative from the Department of Commerce, business and industry leaders for in-demand careers, and the public. The commissioner, after considering reviews and comments, shall submit the proposed revisions to the State Board of Education for adoption.

Section 6. Subsection (5) of section 1003.4203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.4203 Digital materials, CAPE Digital Tool certificates, and technical assistance.—

(5) GRADE POINT AVERAGE CALCULATION.—For purposes of calculating grade point average, a grade in a course that is

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175 directly related to a CAPE Digital Tool Certificate or CAPE
 176 ~~level 3 or above and leads to an~~ industry certification must be
 177 weighted the same as a grade in an honors course.

178 Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section
 179 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

180 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

181 (7) CAREER EDUCATION COURSES THAT SATISFY HIGH SCHOOL
 182 CREDIT REQUIREMENTS.—

183 (a) Participation in career education courses engages
 184 students in their high school education, increases academic
 185 achievement, enhances employability, and increases postsecondary
 186 success. The department shall develop, for approval by the State
 187 Board of Education, multiple, additional career education
 188 courses or a series of courses that meet the requirements set
 189 forth in s. 1003.493(2), (4), and (5) and this subsection and
 190 allow students to earn credit in both the career education
 191 course and courses required for high school graduation under
 192 this section and s. 1003.4281.

193 1. The state board must determine at least biennially if
 194 sufficient academic standards are covered to warrant the award
 195 of academic credit, including satisfaction of graduation,
 196 assessment, and state university admissions requirements under
 197 this section.

198 2. Career education courses must:

- 199 a. Include workforce and digital literacy skills.
- 200 b. Integrate required course content with practical
- 201 applications and designated rigorous coursework that results in
- 202 one or more industry certifications or clearly articulated
- 203 credit or advanced standing in a 2-year or 4-year certificate or

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204 degree program, which may include high school junior and senior
 205 year work-related internships or apprenticeships. The department
 206 shall negotiate state licenses for material and testing for
 207 industry certifications.

208
 209 The instructional methodology used in these courses must
 210 comprise authentic projects, problems, and activities for
 211 contextual academic learning and emphasize workplace skills
 212 identified under s. 445.06.

213 3. A student who earns credit upon completion of 1 year of
 214 regulated technical instruction for an apprenticeship program
 215 registered with the Department of Education under chapter 446 or
 216 preapprenticeship program registered with the Department of
 217 Education under chapter 446 and the Occupational Safety and
 218 Health Administration 10 certification may use such credit to
 219 satisfy the high school graduation credit requirements in
 220 paragraph (3) (e) or paragraph (3) (g). The state board shall
 221 approve and identify in the Course Code Directory the
 222 apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs from which earned
 223 credit may be used pursuant to this subparagraph.

224 4. The State Board of Education shall, by rule, establish a
 225 process that enables a student to receive work-based learning
 226 credit or credit in electives for completing a threshold level
 227 of demonstrable participation in extracurricular activities
 228 associated with career and technical student organizations.
 229 Work-based learning credit or credit in electives for
 230 extracurricular activities or supervised agricultural
 231 experiences may not be limited by grade level.

232 Section 8. Paragraph (p) of subsection (3), paragraph (b)

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of subsection (4), and paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section 1003.491, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1003.491 Florida Career and Professional Education Act.—The Florida Career and Professional Education Act is created to provide a statewide planning partnership between the business and education communities in order to attract, expand, and retain targeted, high-value industry and to sustain a strong, knowledge-based economy.

(3) The strategic 3-year plan developed jointly by the local school district, local workforce development boards, economic development agencies, and state-approved postsecondary institutions must be constructed and based on:

(p) Strategies to provide professional development for secondary certified school counselors on the benefits of career and professional academies and career-themed courses that lead to industry certification, including providing information on the employment demands and opportunities within the industries listed on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List; and

(4) The State Board of Education shall establish a process for the continual and uninterrupted review of newly proposed core secondary courses and existing courses requested to be considered as core courses to ensure that sufficient rigor and relevance is provided for workforce skills and postsecondary education and aligned to state curriculum standards.

(b) The curriculum review committee shall review newly proposed core courses electronically. Each proposed core course shall be approved or denied within 30 days after submission by a district school board or local workforce development board. All courses approved as core courses for purposes of middle school

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promotion and high school graduation shall be immediately added to the Course Code Directory. Approved core courses shall also be reviewed and considered for approval for dual enrollment credit. The curriculum review committee must review the Applied Construction Mathematics course for inclusion in the course code directory. The Board of Governors and the Commissioner of Education shall jointly recommend an annual deadline for approval of new core courses to be included for purposes of postsecondary admissions and dual enrollment credit the following academic year. The State Board of Education shall establish an appeals process in the event that a proposed course is denied which shall require a consensus ruling by the Department of Economic Opportunity and the Commissioner of Education within 15 days.

(5) (a) The Commissioner of Education shall conduct an annual review of K-12 and postsecondary career and technical education offerings that, at a minimum, must examine:

1. Alignment of offerings with the framework of quality under s. 445.004(4).

2. Alignment of offerings at the K-12 and postsecondary levels with credentials or degree programs identified on the Master Credentials List under s. 445.004(4).

3. Program utilization and unwarranted duplication across institutions serving the same students in a geographical or service area.

4. Institutional performance measured by student outcomes such as academic achievement, college readiness, postsecondary enrollment, credential and certification attainment, job placement, and wages.

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291 5. The efforts of each school district to fulfill the
 292 requirements of paragraph (3) (p) and the number of students and
 293 parents each school district informs about career and technical
 294 education offerings and the number of representatives from
 295 various industries who speak with students about career and
 296 technical education.

297 Section 9. Subsections (1) and (4) of section 1003.493,
 298 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

299 1003.493 Career and professional academies and career-
 300 themed courses.—

301 (1) (a) A “career and professional academy” is a research-
 302 based program that integrates a rigorous academic curriculum
 303 with an industry-specific curriculum aligned directly to
 304 priority workforce needs established by the local workforce
 305 development board or the Department of Economic Opportunity.
 306 Career and professional academies shall be offered by public
 307 schools and school districts. Career and professional academies
 308 may be offered by charter schools. The Florida Virtual School is
 309 encouraged to develop and offer rigorous career and professional
 310 courses as appropriate. Students completing career and
 311 professional academy programs must receive a standard high
 312 school diploma, the highest available industry certification,
 313 and opportunities to earn postsecondary credit if the academy
 314 partners with a postsecondary institution approved to operate in
 315 the state. The Department of Education and the Board of
 316 Governors shall annually publish on their respective websites
 317 the number of postsecondary credits available to a student who
 318 completes a career and professional program through a career and
 319 professional academy. Such information must be published as

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320 workforce education information.

321 (b) A “career-themed course” is a course, or a course in a
 322 series of courses, that leads to an industry certification
 323 identified in the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List
 324 pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Education.
 325 Career-themed courses have industry-specific curriculum aligned
 326 directly to priority workforce needs established by the local
 327 workforce development board or the Department of Economic
 328 Opportunity. School districts shall offer at least two career-
 329 themed courses in every high school and middle school in the
 330 district, and each secondary school is encouraged to offer at
 331 least one career-themed course. The Florida Virtual School is
 332 encouraged to develop and offer rigorous career-themed courses
 333 as appropriate. The Department of Education and the Board of
 334 Governors shall annually publish on their respective websites
 335 the number of postsecondary credits available to students who
 336 complete a career-themed course or series of courses that lead
 337 to an industry certification listed on the CAPE Industry
 338 Certification Funding List. Students completing a career-themed
 339 course must be provided opportunities to earn postsecondary
 340 credit ~~if the credit for the career-themed course can be~~
 341 ~~articulated to a postsecondary institution approved to operate~~
 342 ~~in the state.~~

343 (4) Each career and professional academy and ~~secondary~~
 344 school providing a career-themed courses ~~course~~ must:

345 (a) Provide a rigorous standards-based academic curriculum
 346 integrated with a career curriculum; consider multiple styles of
 347 student learning; promote learning by doing through application
 348 and adaptation; maximize relevance of the subject matter;

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enhance each student's capacity to excel; and include an emphasis on work habits and work ethics.

(b) 1. Include one or more partnerships with postsecondary institutions, businesses, industry, employers, economic development organizations, or other appropriate partners from the local community. Such partnerships with postsecondary institutions shall be delineated in articulation agreements and include any career and professional academy courses or career-themed courses that earn postsecondary credit. Such agreements may include articulation between the secondary school and public or private 2-year and 4-year postsecondary institutions and technical centers. ~~The Department of Education, in consultation with the Board of Governors, shall establish a mechanism to ensure articulation and transfer of credits to postsecondary institutions in this state.~~ Such partnerships must provide opportunities for:

a.1- Instruction from highly skilled professionals who possess industry-certification credentials for courses they are teaching.

b.2- Internships, externships, and on-the-job training.

c.3- A postsecondary degree, diploma, or certificate.

d.4- The highest available level of industry certification.

e.5- Maximum articulation of credits pursuant to s. 1007.23 upon program completion.

2. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Board of Governors, shall:

a. Establish a list of postsecondary credits that must be awarded based on the student's completion of certain career-themed courses in grades 9 through 12.

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b. Establish a list of postsecondary credits that must be awarded based on the student receiving a CAPE industry certification under s. 1003.4203.

c. Establish a mechanism to ensure articulation and transfer of such credits to postsecondary institutions in the state.

(c) Promote and provide opportunities for students enrolled in a career and professional academy or a career-themed course to attain, at minimum, the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award pursuant to s. 1009.536.

(d) Provide instruction in careers designated as high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand by the local workforce development board, the chamber of commerce, economic development agencies, or the Department of Economic Opportunity.

(e) Deliver academic content through instruction relevant to the career, including intensive reading and mathematics intervention required by s. 1003.4282, with an emphasis on strengthening reading for information skills.

(f) Offer applied courses that combine academic content with technical skills.

(g) Provide instruction resulting in competency, certification, or credentials in workplace skills, including, but not limited to, communication skills, interpersonal skills, decisionmaking skills, the importance of attendance and timeliness in the work environment, and work ethics.

Section 10. Subsection (1) of section 1003.4935, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.4935 Middle grades career and professional academy courses and career-themed courses.-

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(1) ~~Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year,~~ Each district school board, in collaboration with local workforce development boards, economic development agencies, and state-approved postsecondary institutions, shall include plans to implement a career and professional academy or at least two ~~a~~ career-themed ~~courses~~ course, as defined in s. 1003.493(1)(b), in each ~~at least one~~ middle school in the district as part of the strategic 3-year plan pursuant to s. 1003.491(2). The strategic plan must provide students the opportunity to transfer from a middle school career and professional academy or a career-themed course to a high school career and professional academy or a career-themed course currently operating within the school district. Students who complete a middle school career and professional academy or a career-themed course must have the opportunity to earn an industry certificate and high school credit and participate in career planning, job shadowing, and business leadership development activities.

Section 11. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 1012.39, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1012.39 Employment of substitute teachers, teachers of adult education, nondegreed teachers of career education, and career specialists; students performing clinical field experience.—

(1) Notwithstanding ss. 1012.32, 1012.55, 1012.56, and 1012.57, or any other provision of law or rule to the contrary, each district school board shall establish the minimal qualifications for:

(c) Part-time and full-time nondegreed teachers of career programs. Qualifications must be established for nondegreed

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teachers of career and technical education courses for program clusters that are recognized in the state and are based primarily on successful occupational experience rather than academic training. The qualifications for such teachers must require:

1. The filing of a complete set of fingerprints in the same manner as required by s. 1012.32. Faculty employed solely to conduct postsecondary instruction may be exempted from this requirement.

2. Documentation of education and successful occupational experience including documentation of:

a. A high school diploma or the equivalent.

b. Completion of 1 year ~~3 years~~ of full-time successful occupational experience or the equivalent of part-time experience in the teaching specialization area. The district school board may establish alternative qualifications for teachers with an industry certification in the career area in which they teach.

c. For full-time teachers, completion of professional education training in teaching methods, course construction, lesson planning and evaluation, and teaching special needs students. This training may be completed through coursework from an accredited or approved institution or an approved district teacher education program, or the local school district inservice master plan.

d. Documentation of industry certification when state or national industry certifications are available and applicable.

Section 12. (1) The Career and Technical Education Task Force, a task force as defined in s. 20.03(5), Florida Statutes,

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is created adjunct to the Department of Education to study the status of career and technical education in each school district within the state. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the task force shall operate in a manner consistent with s. 20.052, Florida Statutes. The department shall provide administrative and staff support relating to the functions of the task force.

(2) The Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Commissioner of Education, and the Secretary of the Department of Commerce shall each appoint two members to the task force by September 1, 2024. The commissioner shall appoint a chair of the task force.

(3) The task force shall:

(a) Compile a list of career and technical education courses offered within each school district. Such data must be broken down by industry, grade level, location, the number of students enrolled in such courses, the number of students who complete such courses, and the total number of students per district enrolled in such courses.

(b) Identify the total funding provided for the career and technical education courses offered by school districts and analyze whether such funding is uniform across the state or if such funding varies by course or industry.

(c) Compare funding and reimbursement rates and timelines for career and technical education courses to funding and reimbursement rates and timelines for traditional K-12 education courses.

(d) Identify any additional funding available for additional career and technical education courses, including

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federal funding, industry funding, or additional state funding.

(e) Identify how career and technical education courses are advertised to parents and students.

(f) Identify the needs of school districts to expand career and technical education, including what needs could be met by the Legislature.

(g) Identify the number of students who earn an industry certification through career and technical education courses who also find employment in relevant industries.

(h) Provide recommendations for changes and expansions to career and technical education course offerings beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.

(4) The task force shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education by June 1, 2025. This section shall expire upon submission of the report.

Section 13. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

The Florida Senate

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1/17/2024

Meeting Date

Education Pk K

Committee

SB 460

Bill Number or Topic

119860

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Carol BOWEN

Phone 954-465-6811

Address PO Box 880448

Street

Email cbowen@abefl.com

Boca Raton FL

City

State

33488

Zip

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Assoc. Builders
and Contractors of Florida

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Phone

Address

Email

Street

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐

I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒

I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Foundation for Florida's Future

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

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11/17/2024

Meeting Date

460

Bill Number or Topic

Ed Pre K

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Carol Bowen

Phone 954-465-6811

Address PO Box 880448

Street

Email cbowen@abcflorida.com

Boca Raton FL

City

33488

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

Assoc. Builders and
Contractors of FL

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The Florida Senate

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1/17/24 8³⁰

Meeting Date

Bill Number or Topic

ED REP

Committee

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Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Karen Mazzola, Florida PTA

Phone

407-855-7604

Address

1747 Orlando Central Pkwy

Email

p.educationalfloridapta.org

Street

Orlando

FL

32809

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐ For☒ Against☐ Information**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐ In Support☒ Against**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

FLPTA

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1/17/24
Meeting Date

Ed Pre K-12
Committee

SB 460
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Norin Dollard Phone (807) 440-1421 x709

Address 1004 E Caracas St Email dollard@floridapolicy.org
Street

Tampa FL 33603
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☒ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☐ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

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1/17/2024

Meeting Date

Education

Committee

460

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Ashton Mears

Phone 352-843-0248

Address 1319 Thomaswood Drive

Street

Email amears@fhba.com

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32308

Zip

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Florida Home Builders
Association

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

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01/17/24

Meeting Date

Education

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SB 460

Bill Number or Topic

~~Constitutional Rights~~ Pre K-12
Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Jackson Oberlink

Phone 772-532-1371

Address
Street

Email jackson@floridaforall.vote

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Florida
Rising

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

17 Jan 2024

Meeting Date

Education Pre-K - 12

Committee

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

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460

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Chris Stranburg

Phone 813-767-9667

Address 107 E College Ave

Email cstranburg@a1phg.org

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32301

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Americans for
Prosperity

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

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1/17/24
Meeting Date

460
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Career + Technical Education

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Edward Briggs

Job Title VP Gov't Affairs

Address _____
Street

Phone 850 933 5994

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing American Fire Sprinkler Association + FL Refrigeration + AC Contractors Association

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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The Florida Senate

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1/17/24
Meeting Date

Education PreK-12
Committee

SB 460
Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Yenisbel Villorio Phone _____

Address _____
Street

Email _____

City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☒ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:
State Innovation
Exchange Action

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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APPEARANCE RECORD

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Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1/17/24

Meeting Date

Education Pre-K-12

Committee

SB 460

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Jonathan Rees

Phone

850 570-0043

Address

311 East Park Avenue

Email

JREES@SmithBryonandRees.com

Street

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32301

Zip

Speaking:

☐ For

☐ Against

☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking:



In Support

☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:



I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.



I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Transfr Workforce
Innovation



I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022JointRules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

APPEARANCE RECORDDeliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meetingREPLACEMENTSB 460

Bill Number or Topic

1/12/24

Meeting Date

Senate Ed

Committee

* 119860 DE

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Shan Goff

Phone

850-544-6138

Address

215 S Monroe St

Street

Email

shan@excelined.orgTall

City

Fla

State

32301

Zip

Speaking:

☐ For☐ Against☐ Information**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☒ In Support☐ Against**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**☐I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.☒I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:Foundation for Florida's Future☐I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1/17/24
Meeting Date

SB 460
Bill Number or Topic

Education
Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Dr. Rich Templin Phone 850-566-4348

Address 135 S. Monroe Email _____
Street

Tallahassee FL 32301
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☒ Against ☐ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Florida AFL-CIO

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: KB 412 **Case No.:** -
Caption: Senate Committee on Education Pre-K -12

Type:
Judge:

Started: 1/17/2024 8:31:47 AM
Ends: 1/17/2024 10:09:22 AM **Length:** 01:37:36

8:31:48 AM Chair Burgess calls meeting to order
8:31:52 AM Roll call
8:32:07 AM Tab 3- SB 916 School Readiness Program
8:32:16 AM Senator Calatayud recognized to explain the bill
8:34:45 AM Questions
8:35:44 AM Senator Osgood
8:36:17 AM Senator Calatayud
8:36:57 AM Public testimony
8:37:09 AM Molly Grant
8:37:41 AM Sarah Massey, Florida Chamber of Commerce
8:38:19 AM Michele Watson, Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trust
8:38:25 AM Matt Herndon, United Way of FL
8:38:35 AM Edward Briggs, Helios Education Foundation
8:38:38 AM Norin Dollard
8:38:43 AM Michael Barrett, Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops
8:39:18 AM Debate
8:39:21 AM Senator Grall
8:39:41 AM Senator Berman
8:40:23 AM Senator Osgood
8:40:36 AM Senator Calatayud recognized to close on the bill
8:41:47 AM Roll call
8:42:10 AM Tab 3 reported
8:42:28 AM Chair returned to Senator Simon
8:42:42 AM Tab 5- SB 1356 School Safety
8:42:51 AM Senator Calatayud recognized to explain the bill
8:44:03 AM Questions
8:44:34 AM Senator Berman
8:44:38 AM Senator Calatayud
8:45:10 AM Senator Berman
8:45:44 AM Senator Calatayud
8:46:12 AM Public testimony
8:46:23 AM Barry Bishop III, Florida Smart Justice Alliance
8:46:30 AM Debate
8:46:46 AM Senator Osgood
8:47:55 AM Senator Calatayud recognized to close on the bill
8:49:12 AM Roll call
8:49:18 AM Tab 5 reported
8:49:45 AM Tab 2- SB 820 Child Care and Early Learning Providers
8:50:06 AM Senator Grall recognized to explain the bill
8:50:46 AM Amendment #830618
8:51:10 AM Senator Grall recognized to explain the amendment
8:51:29 AM Amendment reported
8:51:53 AM Amendment #846424
8:52:00 AM Senator Grall recognized to explain the amendment
8:52:18 AM Amendment reported
8:52:27 AM Back on the bill as amended
8:52:35 AM Questions
8:52:39 AM Senator Berman
8:53:00 AM Senator Grall
8:53:31 AM Public testimony
8:54:32 AM David Daniel, Florida Association for Child Care Management
8:54:51 AM Matt Herndon, United Way Suncoast

8:54:54 AM Edward Briggs, Helios Education Foundation
8:54:55 AM Michele Watson, Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trust
8:54:58 AM Sarah Massey, Florida Chamber of Commerce
8:55:02 AM Karen Mazzola, Florida PTA
8:55:16 AM Senator Grall recognized to close on the bill as amended
8:55:58 AM Roll call
8:56:08 AM Tab 2 reported
8:56:31 AM Tab 4- SB 1026 Early Learning
8:56:35 AM Senator Grall recognized to explain the bill
8:58:33 AM Amendment #493612
8:59:33 AM Senator Grall recognized to explain the amendment
8:59:52 AM Amendment reported
9:00:06 AM Amendment #654458
9:00:11 AM Senator Grall recognized to explain the amendment
9:00:30 AM Questions
9:00:48 AM Senator Berman
9:00:59 AM Senator Grall
9:01:45 AM Senator Berman
9:01:59 AM Senator Grall
9:02:17 AM Amendment reported
9:02:46 AM Amendment #736488
9:02:52 AM Senator Grall recognized to explain the amendment
9:03:07 AM Amendment reported
9:03:17 AM Amendment #521898
9:03:25 AM Senator Grall recognized to explain the amendment
9:03:49 AM Amendment reported
9:04:10 AM Back on bill as amended
9:04:19 AM Public testimony
9:04:26 AM Karen Mazzola, Florida PTA
9:04:46 AM Chair reads waiving appearance forms
9:05:27 AM Debate
9:05:29 AM Senator Berman
9:05:52 AM Senator Grall recognized to close on the bill as amended
9:07:06 AM Roll call
9:08:11 AM Tab 4 reported
9:08:26 AM Tab 6-SPB 7038 Education
9:08:48 AM Senator Yarborough recognized to explain the bill
9:09:12 AM Public testimony
9:10:13 AM Chair reads waiving appearance forms
9:10:51 AM Senator Burgess moves SPB 7038 be recognized as a committee bill
9:11:02 AM Roll call
9:11:30 AM Tab 6 reported
9:11:42 AM Chair turned over to Senator Burgess
9:11:54 AM Tab 1- SB 460 Career and Technical Education
9:12:09 AM Senator Simon recognized to explain the bill
9:12:22 AM Amendment #119860
9:12:58 AM Senator Simon recognized to explain the amendment as the bill
9:13:42 AM Questions
9:14:42 AM Senator Jones
9:14:48 AM Senator Simon
9:15:31 AM Senator Jones
9:15:55 AM Senator Simon
9:16:05 AM Senator Jones
9:16:39 AM Senator Simon
9:16:58 AM Senator Jones
9:17:18 AM Senator Simon
9:17:22 AM Senator Jones
9:17:29 AM Senator Simon
9:17:45 AM Senator Jones
9:18:34 AM Senator Simon
9:18:49 AM Senator Jones
9:19:29 AM Senator Simon

9:19:36 AM	Senator Jones
9:20:09 AM	Senator Simon
9:20:52 AM	Senator Berman
9:21:31 AM	Senator Simon
9:21:37 AM	Senator Berman
9:21:46 AM	Senator Simon
9:22:02 AM	Senator Berman
9:22:39 AM	Senator Simon
9:23:05 AM	Senator Berman
9:23:18 AM	Senator Simon
9:23:55 AM	Senator Berman
9:24:02 AM	Senator Simon
9:24:20 AM	Senator Berman
9:24:25 AM	Senator Simon
9:24:42 AM	Senator Berman
9:25:33 AM	Senator Simon
9:25:44 AM	Public testimony
9:26:15 AM	Carol Bowen, Association of Builders and Contractors of FL
9:29:52 AM	Karen Mazzola, Florida PTA
9:33:04 AM	Norin Dollard, Florida Policy Institute
9:34:42 AM	Ashton Mears, Florida Home Builders Association
9:36:33 AM	Jackson Oberlink, Florida Rising
9:40:04 AM	Senator Yarborough
9:41:18 AM	Jackson Oberlink, Florida Rising
9:41:41 AM	Chair reads waiving appearance forms
9:41:52 AM	Dr. Rich Templin, Florida AFL-CIO
9:44:55 AM	Debate
9:45:55 AM	Amendment reported
9:46:26 AM	Back on the bill as amended
9:46:51 AM	Debate
9:46:52 AM	Senator Jones
9:48:09 AM	Senator Grall
9:49:57 AM	Senator Osgood
9:54:19 AM	Senator Yarborough
9:56:57 AM	Senator Perry
9:58:57 AM	Chair Burgess
10:00:14 AM	Senator Simon recognized to close on the bill as amended
10:06:45 AM	Roll call
10:08:05 AM	Tab 1 reported
10:08:31 AM	Chair returns to Senator Simon
10:08:54 AM	Senator Calatayud requests to record a vote
10:09:05 AM	Senator Burgess moves to adjourn
10:09:12 AM	Meeting adjourned