

Tab 1	SB 996 by Rodriguez ; Similar to H 00395 Dependent Children
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Tab 2	SB 1022 by Polsky ; Identical to H 00933 Children's Initiatives
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Tab 3	SB 1462 by Bracy Davis ; Identical to H 01267 Temporary Cash Assistance Eligibility
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Tab 4	SB 1690 by Calatayud ; Compare to CS/H 00765 Early Childhood Education
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The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND ELDER AFFAIRS

Senator Grall, Chair
Senator Garcia, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 3, 2026

TIME: 1:00—3:00 p.m.

PLACE: 301 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Grall, Chair; Senator Garcia, Vice Chair; Senators Harrell, Rouson, Sharief, and Simon

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	SB 996 Rodriguez (Similar H 395)	Dependent Children; Requiring the Department of Children and Families and each community-based care lead agency to coordinate with certain organizations and meet at least quarterly for a specified purpose; requiring the department and each community-based care lead agency to make certain information available on their respective websites; requiring a caregiver to provide a weekly cash allowance to each child in his or her care beginning when the child attains a certain age; prohibiting a caregiver from withholding a child's allowance as punishment, etc. CF 02/03/2026 Favorable AHS FP	Favorable Yeas 4 Nays 0
2	SB 1022 Polsky (Identical H 933)	Children's Initiatives; Establishing the Bay County 32401 Children's Initiative in Bay County and the Pompano RYZE Children's Initiative in Broward County; providing for the projects to be managed by not-for-profit corporations; declaring that the initiatives are subject to state public records and meeting requirements and procurement of commodities and contractual services requirements; requiring designated children's initiatives to assist in the creation of community-based service networks and programming that provides certain services for children and families residing in disadvantaged areas of this state, etc. CF 02/03/2026 Favorable AHS FP	Favorable Yeas 4 Nays 0
3	SB 1462 Bracy Davis (Identical H 1267)	Temporary Cash Assistance Eligibility; Deleting the prohibition against awarding benefits to a person who has a felony drug conviction for trafficking; deleting specified requirements a person convicted of a drug felony must meet to receive benefits, etc. CF 02/03/2026 Fav/CS AHS FP	Fav/CS Yeas 4 Nays 0

COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 1:00—3:00 p.m.

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
4	SB 1690 Calatayud (Compare CS/H 765)	Early Childhood Education; Revising the definition of the terms “child care facility” and “child care personnel”; revising the minimum standards for child care facility licensing; deleting provisions that require large family child care homes to provide parents of enrolled children information relating to certain viruses and the risks of leaving children in vehicles; prohibiting insurers from denying, cancelling, or refusing to renew a policy for residential property insurance on the basis that the policyholders or applicants operate large family child care homes, etc.	Fav/CS Yeas 4 Nays 0
		CF 02/03/2026 Fav/CS ED AP	

Other Related Meeting Documents

By Senator Rodriguez

40-00983-26

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to dependent children; amending s.
3 39.4085, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children
4 and Families and each community-based care lead agency
5 to coordinate with certain organizations and meet at
6 least quarterly for a specified purpose; authorizing
7 such meetings to be in person or via teleconference or
8 other electronic means; requiring such meetings to
9 have a formal agenda; requiring the department and
10 each community-based care lead agency to make certain
11 information available on their respective websites;
12 requiring, beginning in a specified year, the
13 department and each community-based care lead agency
14 to publish on their respective websites a biannual
15 report containing specified information; amending s.
16 409.145, F.S.; providing legislative findings;
17 requiring a caregiver to provide a weekly cash
18 allowance to each child in his or her care beginning
19 when the child attains a certain age; prohibiting a
20 caregiver from withholding a child's allowance as
21 punishment; providing that a child may not be required
22 to use his or her allowance for certain items;
23 providing the amount of such weekly allowance;
24 encouraging caregivers to offer certain opportunities
25 and help to children in their care; authorizing the
26 department to adopt rules; providing an effective
27 date.

28
29 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 39.4085, Florida Statutes, to read:

39.4085 Goals for dependent children; responsibilities; education; Office of the Children's Ombudsman.—

(6) (a) The department shall coordinate with organizations that are focused on empowering children with lived experience for the purpose of addressing challenges and opportunities for children in the child welfare system. The department and such organizations must meet at least quarterly in person or via teleconference or other electronic means to solicit input on ways to address such challenges and opportunities. Each meeting must have a formal agenda, and such agenda and the minutes from each meeting must be made available on the department's website.

(b) Each community-based care lead agency shall coordinate with organizations that are focused on empowering children with lived experience for the purpose of addressing challenges and opportunities for children in the child welfare system. The community-based care lead agency and such organizations must meet at least quarterly in person or via teleconference or other electronic means to solicit input on ways to address such challenges and opportunities. Each meeting must have a formal agenda, and such agenda and the minutes from each meeting must be made available on the community-based care lead agency's website.

(c) By February 1 and August 1 of each year, beginning in 2027, the department and each community-based care lead agency must make publicly accessible on their respective websites a report that outlines how the department and the community-based

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59 care lead agencies have implemented the suggestions received
60 from organizations in the meetings required under paragraphs (a)
61 and (b).

62 Section 2. Present subsection (5) of section 409.145,
63 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (6), a new
64 subsection (5) is added to that section, and paragraph (b) of
65 subsection (2) is amended, to read:

66 409.145 Care of children; "reasonable and prudent parent"
67 standard.—The child welfare system of the department shall
68 operate as a coordinated community-based system of care which
69 empowers all caregivers for children in foster care to provide
70 quality parenting, including approving or disapproving a child's
71 participation in activities based on the caregiver's assessment
72 using the "reasonable and prudent parent" standard.

73 (2) REASONABLE AND PRUDENT PARENT STANDARD.—

74 (b) *Application of standard of care.*—

75 1. Every child who comes into out-of-home care pursuant to
76 this chapter is entitled to participate in age-appropriate
77 extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities and to
78 receive a weekly cash allowance for personal use in accordance
79 with subsection (5).

80 2. Each caregiver shall use the reasonable and prudent
81 parent standard in determining whether to give permission for a
82 child living in out-of-home care to participate in
83 extracurricular, enrichment, or social activities. When using
84 the reasonable and prudent parent standard, the caregiver must
85 consider:

86 a. The child's age, maturity, and developmental level to
87 maintain the overall health and safety of the child.

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88 b. The potential risk factors and the appropriateness of
89 the extracurricular, enrichment, or social activity.

90 c. The best interest of the child, based on information
91 known by the caregiver.

92 d. The importance of encouraging the child's emotional and
93 developmental growth.

94 e. The importance of providing the child with the most
95 family-like living experience possible.

96 f. The behavioral history of the child and the child's
97 ability to safely participate in the proposed activity.

98 (5) CASH ALLOWANCE.—

99 (a) The Legislature finds that receiving a cash allowance
100 is a critical aspect of normalcy for a child. A cash allowance
101 teaches a child the value and use of money and promotes
102 independence, responsibility, and decisionmaking.

103 (b) A caregiver must provide each child in his or her care,
104 beginning when the child attains 6 years of age, a weekly cash
105 allowance that is not tied to the child's behavior or the
106 completion of the child's chores. A caregiver may not withhold
107 the child's allowance as a form of punishment. A child may not
108 be required to use his or her allowance to purchase personal
109 hygiene items, school supplies, clothing, or other necessities
110 that are the responsibility of the child's caregiver. The
111 minimum allowance is as follows:

112 1. For children ages 6 to 12 years, \$1 for each year of age
113 per week.

114 2. For children ages 13 to 17 years, \$20 per week.

115 (c) In addition to providing the allowance required under
116 paragraph (b), a caregiver is encouraged to do all of the

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117 following:118 1. Offer the opportunity to earn money through chores to a
119 child placed in his or her care.120 2. Help a child placed in his or her care to obtain
121 employment, if the child wants to be employed.122 (d) The department may adopt rules to implement this
123 subsection.

124 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

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 Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

BILL: SB 996

INTRODUCER: Senator Rodriguez

SUBJECT: Dependent Children

DATE: February 2, 2026

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Rao	Tuszynski	CF	Favorable
2.			AHS	
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

SB 996 aims to emphasize the importance of learning from individuals with lived experience and increasing normalcy in foster care through teaching foster children the importance and value of money.

The bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and each Community-based care (CBC) lead agency to coordinate with organizations that are focused on empowering children with lived experience in the child welfare system. The bill requires the DCF and CBC lead agencies to regularly meet with such organizations and publish the implementation of suggestions received from such regular meetings.

The bill codifies the current requirement for caregivers of children in the child welfare system to provide each child over the age of six in his or her care with a weekly cash allowance, based on the child's age. The allowance must not be tied to the child's behavior, withheld as punishment, or used to purchase necessities the caregiver has a responsibility to purchase. The bill encourages caregivers to earn additional money through chores and support children that wish to obtain employment.

The bill includes the provision of a weekly cash allowance in the application of the reasonable and prudent parenting standard of care. The bill gives rulemaking authority to the DCF.

The DCF estimates a significant, negative, fiscal impact to the state, due to the provision of a weekly allowance to children in out-of-home care that is required in the bill.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Florida's Child Welfare System – Generally

Chapter 39, F.S., creates Florida's dependency system charged with protecting children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected.¹ Florida's child welfare system identifies children and families in need of services through reports to the central abuse hotline and child protective investigations.² The Department of Children and Families (DCF) and community-based care (CBC) lead agencies³ work with those families to address the problems endangering children, if possible. If the problems cannot be addressed, the child welfare system finds safe out-of-home placements for these children.⁴

Child welfare services are directed toward the prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect.⁵ The DCF aims to increase the safety of the child within his or her home, using in-home services, such as parenting coaching and counseling to maintain and strengthen the child's natural supports in the home environment.⁶ These services are coordinated by DCF-contracted CBCs. Ultimately, the DCF remains responsible for the operation of the central abuse hotline and investigations of abuse, abandonment, and neglect.⁷ Additionally, the department is responsible for all program oversight and the overall performance of the child welfare system.⁸

Department of Children and Families

The DCF's statutory mission is to work in partnership with local communities to protect the vulnerable, promote strong and economically self-sufficient families, and advance personal and family recovery and resiliency.⁹ The DCF implements a practice model for child and family well-being that is safety-focused, trauma-informed, and family-centered. Such practices are intended to ensure:

- Permanency. Florida's children should enjoy long-term, secure relationships within strong families and communities.
- Child Well-Being. Florida's children should be physically and emotionally healthy and socially competent.
- Safety. Florida's children should live free from maltreatment.

¹ Chapter 39, F.S.

² See generally s. 39.101, F.S. (establishing the central abuse hotline and timeframes for initiating investigations).

³ See s. 409.986(1)(a), F.S. (finding that it is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Children and Families "provide child protection and child welfare services to children through contracting with CBC lead agencies"). A "community-based care lead agency" or "lead agency" means a single entity with which the DCF has a contract for the provision of care for children in the child protection and child welfare system, in a community that is no smaller than a county and no larger than two contiguous judicial circuits. Section 409.986(3)(d), F.S. The secretary of DCF may authorize more than one eligible lead agency within a single county if doing so will result in more effective delivery of services to children. *Id.*

⁴ Chapter 39, F.S.

⁵ Section 39.001, F.S.

⁶ See generally The Department of Children and Families, *Florida's Child Welfare Practice Model*, available at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-and-family-well-being/floridas-child-welfare-practice-model> (last visited 1/16/26).

⁷ Section 39.101, F.S.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Section 20.19(1)(a), F.S.

- *Family Well-Being.* Florida's families should nurture, protect, and meet the needs of their children, and should be well integrated into their communities.¹⁰

The DCF is statutorily required to deliver services by contract through private providers to the extent allowed by law and funding.¹¹ These private providers include community-based care lead agencies that deliver child welfare services.¹²

Community-Based Care System

The DCF, through CBCs, administer a system of care to children and families that must focus on the following:¹³

- Prevention of separation of children from their families;
- Intervention to allow children to remain safely in their own homes;
- Reunification of families who have had their children removed from their care;
- Safety for children who are separated from their families;
- Promoting the well-being of children through emphasis on educational stability and timely health care;
- Permanency, including providing adoption and postadoption services; and
- Transition to independence and self-sufficiency.

The CBCs are required to give priority to services that are evidence-based and trauma informed.¹⁴ Further, by outsourcing the provision of child welfare services, local communities have the freedom to implement programs that would best serve the individualized needs of their communities. There are 16 lead agencies statewide that serve the states 20 judicial circuits, as follows:¹⁵

¹⁰ See generally Department of Children and Families (DCF), *Florida's Child Welfare Practice Model*, available at: https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2022-12/FLCSPracticeModel_0.pdf (last visited 1/16/26).

¹¹ Section 20.19(1)(c), F.S.

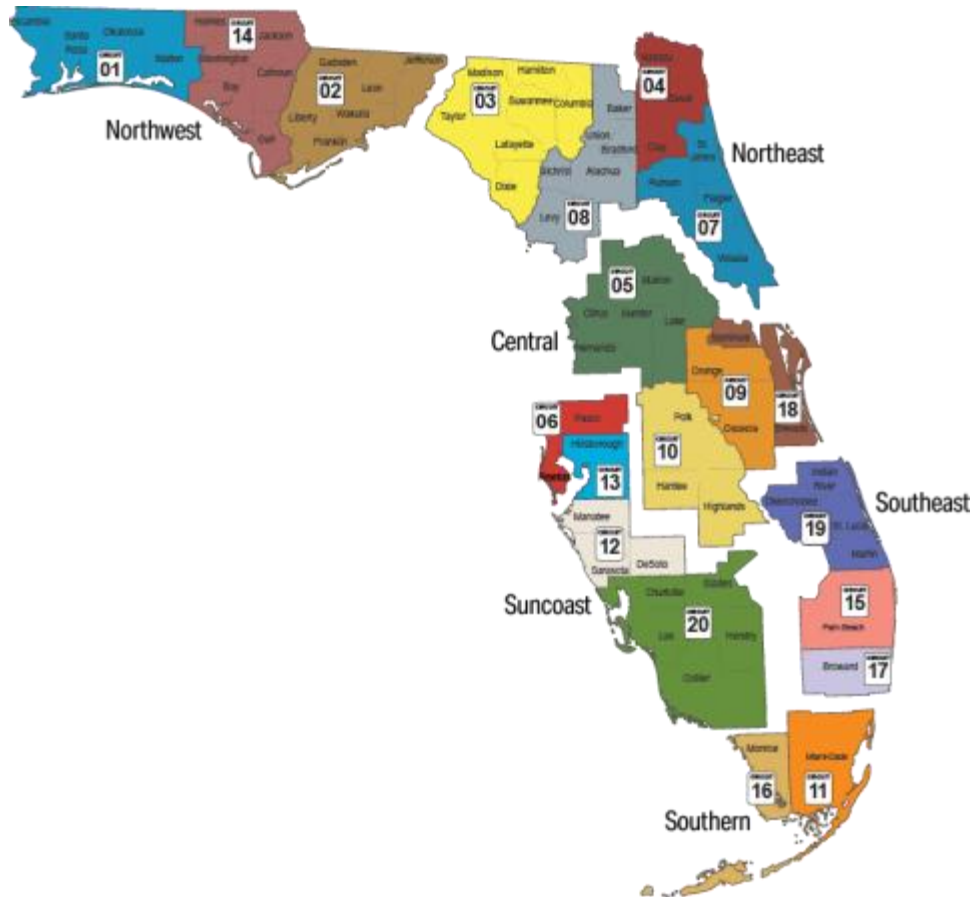
¹² Part V of ch. 409, F.S. and s. 409.986(1)(a), F.S.

¹³ Section 409.145 (1), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 409.988(3), F.S.

¹⁵ Department of Children and Families, *Lead Agency Information*, available at:

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-and-family-well-being/community-based-care/lead-agency-information> (last visited 1/16/26).



Each lead agency contracts with many subcontractors for case management and direct-care services for children and their families.¹⁶

Dependency System Process

In some instances, services may not be enough to maintain a safe environment for a child to live in. When child welfare necessitates that the DCF remove a child from the home to ensure his or her safety, a series of dependency court proceedings must occur to place the child in an out-of-home placement, adjudicate the child dependent, and if necessary, terminate parental rights and free the child for adoption. This process is typically triggered by a report to the central abuse hotline and a child protective investigation that determines the child should not remain in his or her home, notwithstanding services DCF provides. Generally, the dependency process includes, but is not limited to:

- A report to the central abuse hotline.
- A child protective investigation to determine the safety of the child.
- A court finding that the child is dependent.¹⁷

¹⁶ Department of Children and Families, *About Community-Based Care (CBC)*, available at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-and-family-well-being/community-based-care/about> (last visited 1/16/26).

¹⁷ A “child who is found to be dependent” refers to a child who is found by the court: to have been abandoned, abused, or neglected by the child’s parents or legal custodians; to have been surrendered to the DCF or licensed child-placing agency for the purpose of adoption; to have parents or legal custodians that failed to substantially comply with the requirements of a case plan for the purpose of reunification; to have been voluntarily placed with a licensed child-placing agency for the purposes of

- Case planning to address the problems that resulted in the child’s dependency.
- Reunification with the child’s parent or another option, such as adoption, to establish permanency.¹⁸

A child is found to be dependent if he or she is found by the court to be:¹⁹

- Abandoned, abused, or neglected by a parent or legal custodian;
- Surrendered to the DCF or a licensed child-placing agency for purpose of adoption;
- Voluntarily placed with a licensed child-caring agency, a licensed child-placing agency, an adult relative, the DCF, or the former Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, after which placement, under the requirements of Ch. 39, F.S., a case plan has expired and the parent or parents or legal custodians have failed to substantially comply with the requirements of the plan;
- Voluntarily placed with a licensed child-placing agency for the purposes of subsequent adoption, and a parent or parents have signed a consent pursuant to the Florida Rules of Juvenile Procedure;
- Have no parent or legal custodian capable of providing supervision and care;
- Are at substantial risk of imminent abuse, abandonment, or neglect by the parent or parents or legal custodians; or
- Have been sexually exploited and have no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative currently known and capable of providing the necessary and appropriate supervision and care.

A petition for dependency may be filed by an attorney for the DCF or another person who has knowledge of the facts alleged or is informed of them and believes they are true.²⁰

Central Abuse Hotline and Investigations

The department is statutorily required to operate and maintain a central abuse hotline to receive reports of known or suspected instances of child abuse,²¹ abandonment,²² or neglect,²³ or

subsequent adoption; to have no parent or legal custodians capable of providing supervision and care; to be at substantial risk of imminent abuse, abandonment, or neglect; or to have been sexually exploited and to have no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative available to provide the necessary and appropriate supervision. Section 39.01(15), F.S.

¹⁸ Office of the State Courts Administrator, The Office of Family Courts, *A Caregiver’s Guide to Dependency Court*, available at: <https://flcourts-media.flcourts.gov/content/download/218185/file/Web-Caregivers-Guide-Final-09.pdf> (last visited 1/30/26); *see also* ch. 39, F.S.

¹⁹ Section 39.01(15), F.S.

²⁰ Section 39.501, F.S.

²¹ Section 39.01(2), F.S. defines “abuse” as any willful or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual abuse, injury, or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child’s physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired.

²² Section 39.01(1), F.S. defines “abandoned” or “abandonment” as a situation in which the parent or legal custodian of a child of, in the absence of a parent or legal custodian, the caregiver, while being able, has made no significant contribution to the child’s care and maintenance or has made no significant contribution to the child’s care and maintenance or has failed to establish or maintain a substantial and positive relationship with the child, or both. “Establish or maintain a substantial and positive relationship” means, in part, frequent and regular contact with the child, and the exercise of parental rights and responsibilities.

²³ Section 39.01(53), F.S. states “neglect” occurs when a child is deprived of, or is allowed to be deprived of, necessary food, clothing, shelter, or medical treatment or a child is permitted to live in an environment when such deprivation or environment causes the child’s physical, mental, or emotional health to be significantly impaired or to be in danger of being significantly

instances when a child does not have a parent, legal custodian, or adult relative available to provide supervision and care.²⁴ The hotline must operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and accept reports through a single statewide toll-free telephone number or through electronic reporting.²⁵

If the hotline counselor determines a report meets the definition of abuse, abandonment, or neglect, the report is accepted for a protective investigation.²⁶ Based on the report, the department makes a determination regarding when to initiate a protective investigation:

- An investigation must be immediately initiated if:
 - It appears the child's immediate safety or well-being is endangered;
 - The family may flee or the child will be unavailable for purposes of conducting a child protective investigation; or
 - The facts otherwise warrant; or
- An investigation must be initiated within 24 hours in all other cases of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.²⁷

Once a child protective investigator (CPI) is assigned, the CPI assesses the safety and perceived needs of the child and family; whether in-home services are needed to stabilize the family; and whether the safety of the child necessitates removal and the provision of out-of-home services.²⁸

In-Home Services and Out-of-Home Care

The DCF is required to make all efforts to keep children with their families and provide interventions that allow children to remain safely in their own homes.²⁹ CPIs and CBC case managers refer families for in-home services to allow children to remain in their own homes.

As of December 31, 2025, there were 8,111 children and young adults receiving in-home services.³⁰

When a CPI determines that in-home services are not enough to ensure a child's safety, the CPI removes the child from the home and places him or her in a safe and appropriate temporary out-of-home placement.³¹ These placements are aimed to be the least restrictive, most family-like placements available, and are intended to provide short-term housing and support to a child until the child can safely return home, or the child achieves an alternate form of permanency, such as

impaired, except when such circumstances are caused primarily by financial inability unless services have been offered and rejected by such person.

²⁴ Section 39.201(1), F.S.

²⁵ Section 39.101(1), F.S.

²⁶ Section 39.201(4)(a), F.S.

²⁷ Section 39.101(2), F.S.

²⁸ See generally s. 39.301, F.S. and Part IV, Chapter 39, F.S. (regulating taking children into custody and shelter hearings).

²⁹ Sections 39.402(7), 39.521(1)(f), and 39.701(d), F.S.

³⁰ Florida Department of Children and Families, *Office of Child and Family Well-Being Dashboard*, available at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/ocfw-dashboard> (last visited 1/27/26).

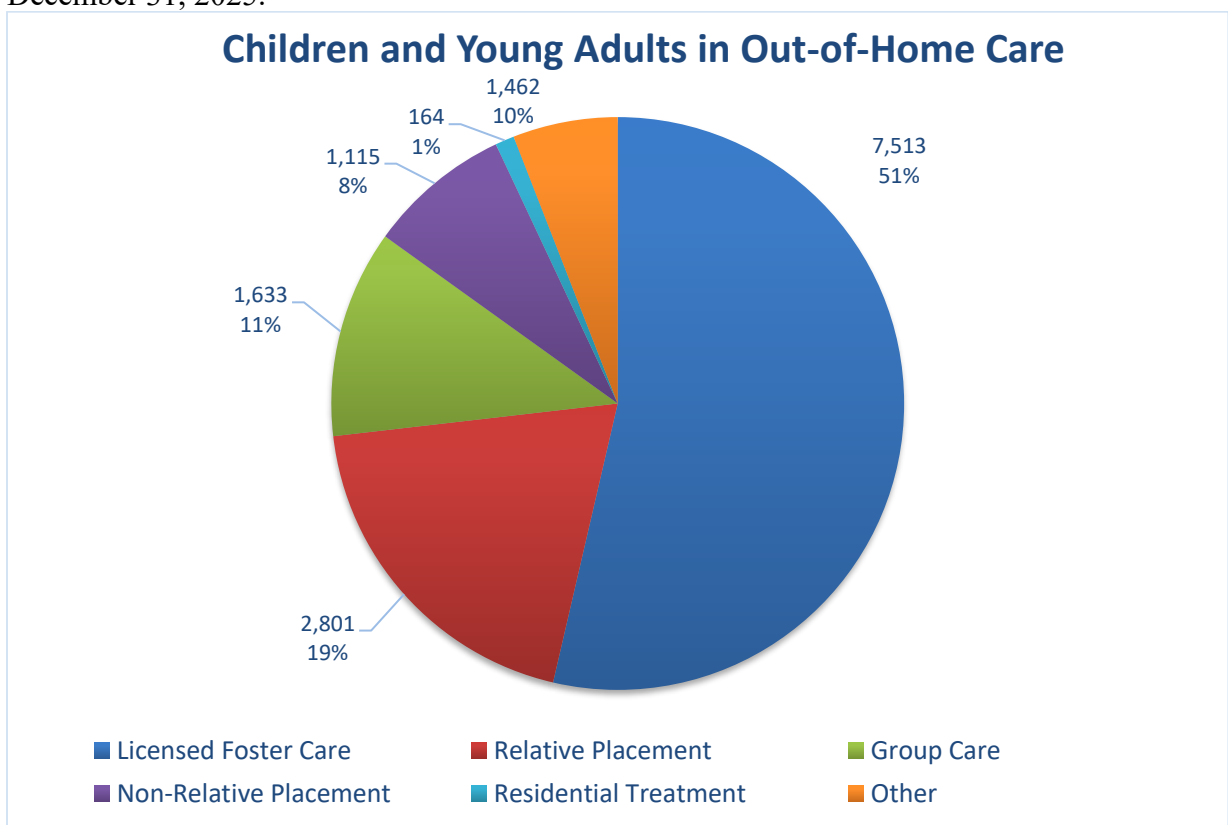
³¹ Section 39.4021, F.S.

adoption, if reunification is not attainable.³² The DCF is required to consider a child’s placement in out-of-home care in the following priority order:

- Non-offending parent.
- Relative caregiver.
- Adoptive parent of the child’s sibling.
- Fictive kin who has a close existing relationship to the child.
- Nonrelative caregiver that does not have an existing relationship to the child.
- Licensed foster care.
- Group or congregate care.³³

Out-of-Home Care for Children

The following chart demonstrates the number of children in out-of-home placement types as of December 31, 2025.³⁴



³² Florida Department of Children and Families, *Florida’s Child Welfare Practice Model*, available at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-and-family-well-being/floridas-child-welfare-practice-model> (last visited 1/30/26).

³³ Section 39.4021, F.S.

³⁴ Florida Department of Children and Families, *Office of Child and Family Well-Being Dashboard*, available at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/ocfw-dashboard> (last visited 1/27/26).

Licensed Foster Care

Licensed care provides a range of placements for children in out-of-home care that vary in service level. The following chart displays each level of licensed care.³⁵

Licensed Care Placements	
Placement Type	Description
Level I: Child-Specific Foster Home	Places a child with relatives or non-relatives who have an existing relationship with the child and is willing and able to provide care for the child.
Level II: Non-Child Specific Foster Home	Places a child with a foster parent without having a prior relationship between the child and foster parent.
Level III: Safe Foster Home for Victims of Human Trafficking	Places a victim of human trafficking in a safe and stable environment.
Level IV: Therapeutic Foster Home	Places a child with a foster parent that has received specialized training to care for children and adolescents that have significant emotional, behavioral, or social needs.
Level V: Medical Foster Home	Places a child with a caregiver who has received specialized training to provide care for children and adolescents with chronic medical conditions.

Relative and Nonrelative Caregivers

When determining a suitable out-of-home placement for a child, the department identifies that placing a child within his or her own family reduces the trauma of removal, reduces the risk of placement disruption, and enhances prospects for finding a permanent family if the child cannot return home.³⁶ Placing a child in the home of a relative or fictive kin³⁷ is referred to as “kinship care” and is generally praised for improving the outcomes of children in out-of-home care.³⁸

The DCF is required to engage in family finding to identify family and other close adults that may care for the child in his or her home, or provide a long-term emotional support network if the adult is not able to care for the child in his or her home.³⁹ Such family finding efforts must begin as soon as the child is taken into the custody of the department.⁴⁰

As of December 31, 2025, there were 2,801 children and young adults placed with relatives, and 1,115 children and young adults placed with an approved nonrelative.⁴¹

³⁵ Florida Department of Children and Families, *Foster Home Licensing*, available at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/licensing/foster-care-licensing> (last visited 1/27/26).

³⁶ Section 39.4015, F.S.

³⁷ “Fictive kin” refers to a person unrelated by birth, marriage, or adoption who has an emotionally significant relationship, which possesses the characteristics of a family relationship, to a child. See Section 39.01(29), F.S.

³⁸ See Section 39.5086, F.S.; American Bar Association, *Kinship Care is Better for Children and Families*, available at: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/resources/child_law_practiceonline/child_law_practice/vol-36/july-aug-2017/kinship-care-is-better-for-children-and-families/ (last visited 1/27/26).

³⁹ Section 39.4015, F.S.

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ Florida Department of Children and Families, *Office of Child and Family Well-Being Dashboard*, available at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/ocfw-dashboard> (last visited 1/27/26).

Financial Support for Caregivers

To support caregivers as they care for children in out-of-home care, the state operates several programs to provide caregivers with financial assistance; the amount of financial assistance a caregiver receives is based on the type of caregiver, licensure, and the dependency status of the child.

Relative Caregiver Program

The Relative Caregiver Program (RCP) was established in 1998 and has been expanded⁴² in recent years to recognize the importance of family relationships and provide additional placement options and incentives to help achieve permanency and stability for children who are otherwise at risk for foster care placement.⁴³

Generally, the program provides RCP payments to relatives⁴⁴ who care full-time for a dependent child (and, in some circumstances, the dependent half brother or half sister of the dependent child) in the role of substitute parent as the result of a court's determination of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment, and the subsequent placement with the relative. Additionally, the program provides payments to nonrelatives who are willing to assume custody and care of a dependent child in the role of substitute parent as a result of the court's determination of child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and subsequent placement with the nonrelative caregiver.⁴⁵

Relatives or nonrelatives who care for a child found to be dependent receive a monthly payment equal to the monthly room and board rate pursuant to s. 409.145(3), F.S. from the date the child is found to be dependent or from the date the child is placed with them in out-of-home care, whichever is later, for a period of no more than 6 months or until the child achieves permanency, whichever occurs first.⁴⁶

Those participating in the RCP are not required to meet foster care licensing requirements.⁴⁷ However, if a relative or nonrelative *has* obtained licensure as a Level I foster parent, they receive the monthly room and board rates foster parents receive, *even if the child has not been adjudicated dependent*.⁴⁸ This payment extends from the date the child is placed in out-of-home care with his or her relative or nonrelative until the child achieves permanency.⁴⁹

⁴² Ch. 2024-68, L.O.F.

⁴³ Ch. 98-78, L.O.F.

⁴⁴ Referred to as within the fifth degree by blood or marriage to the parent or stepparent of the child. *See* Section 39.5085, F.S.

⁴⁵ Section 39.5085(2)(a), F.S.

⁴⁶ Section 39.5085(2)(d)2., F.S.

⁴⁷ Section 39.5085(2)(c), F.S.

⁴⁸ Section 39.5085(2)(d)1., F.S.

⁴⁹ *Id.*

Monthly Room and Board Rate

Level II through Level V licensed foster parents are eligible for the monthly room and board rate. Additionally, the room and board rate extends to the following individuals:⁵⁰

- Relative and nonrelative caregivers licensed as a Level I Child-Specific Foster Placement; and
- Relative and nonrelative caregivers receiving RCP payments who:
 - Have a child placed with them in out-of-home care and have obtained licensure as a Child-specific level I foster placement, regardless of whether a court has found the child to be dependent; or
 - Relatives or nonrelatives who have a child found to be dependent placed with them in out-of-home care, regardless of whether the relatives or nonrelatives have obtained a child-specific level I foster license.

The monthly room and board rate is different based upon the age of the child in out-of-home care. All recipients of the room and board rates receive an annual cost of living increase each January, equal to the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index.⁵¹ The following chart displays the room and board rate adjustments since 2022:

Room and Board Rate Increases 2022-2025				
Age Range	2022 Room and Board Rate⁵²	2023 Room and Board Rate⁵³	2024 Room and Board Rate⁵⁴	2025 Room and Board Rate⁵⁵
Ages 0-5 Years	\$517.94	\$551.61	\$570.36	\$586.90
Ages 6-12	\$531.21	\$565.74	\$584.98	\$601.94
Ages 13-21	\$621.77	\$662.19	\$684.70	\$704.56

The 2026 room and board rate increase has not been published as of January 30, 2026.

Additionally, CBC lead agencies are required to pay a supplemental room and board payment to foster parents and eligible RCP recipients for providing independent life skills and normalcy supports to children ages 13-17 years.⁵⁶ This monthly supplemental payment is determined on a per-child basis and is in addition to the base monthly room and board rate. The supplemental payment is ten percent of the monthly room and board rate for children aged 13-21, adjusted

⁵⁰ Section 409.145(3), F.S.

⁵¹ Section 409.145(3), F.S.

⁵² Florida Department of Children and Families, *2023 Foster Parent Cost of Living Allowance Increase Memo*, available at: https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2023-06/20230206-Memo_2023_FP_COLA.pdf (last visited 1/27/26).

⁵³ Florida Department of Children and Families, *2023 Foster Parent Cost of Living Allowance Increase Memo*, available at: https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2023-06/20230206-Memo_2023_FP_COLA.pdf (last visited 1/27/26).

⁵⁴ Florida Department of Children and Families, *2025 Foster Parent Cost of Living Allowance Increase Memo*, available at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2025-04/2025%20Foster%20Parent%20Cost%20of%20Living%20Allowance%20Increase%20Memo%20-%20February%207%202025.pdf> (last visited 1/27/26).

⁵⁵ Florida Department of Children and Families, *2025 Foster Parent Cost of Living Allowance Increase Memo*, available at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2025-04/2025%20Foster%20Parent%20Cost%20of%20Living%20Allowance%20Increase%20Memo%20-%20February%207%202025.pdf> (last visited 1/27/26).

⁵⁶ Section 409.145(3)(d), F.S.

annually.⁵⁷ Thus, in 2025, CBC lead agencies were required to pay foster parents and eligible RCP recipients a monthly supplemental payment of \$70.46 if they provided independent life skills and normalcy supports to the children in their care.

Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard

A growing body of research suggests that the removal of a child from his or her home, while ultimately in the best interest of the child's safety, is a traumatic and abrupt process that can leave a child feeling emotionally vulnerable and can create feelings of confusion.⁵⁸ During this traumatic period, children are also expected to process the trauma related to the maltreatment that necessitated their placement in foster care while in a new and unfamiliar environment.⁵⁹

Once in the foster care system, experiencing multiple placement disruptions has been associated with negative effects on a child's emotional and social health.⁶⁰ In addition to placement instability, in the past many foster youth lacked the freedom to experience childhood "normals" such as getting a driver's license or participating in sports.⁶¹ This was often due to a reluctance to allow foster children to engage in age-appropriate activities, due to the liability of a foster care agency should an accident occur.⁶² In 2013, Florida passed legislation that established the reasonable and prudent parent standard for foster parents, to allow caregivers to approve a child's participation in activities based on the foster parents' own assessment without departmental or court approval.⁶³ This legislation was intended to provide children in the foster care system with a degree of normalcy while in out-of-home care.

The passage of the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 codified the reasonable and prudent parenting standard on a national level, establishing the states as the entities responsible for developing the reasonable and prudent standards for foster parents.⁶⁴ Many state legislatures chose to adopt Foster Children's Bill of Rights to inform children in the system the rights that are afforded to them, including participation in activities that caregivers determine are appropriate based on the reasonable and prudent standards.⁶⁵

In Florida, the "reasonable and prudent parent" standard refers to the standard of care used by a caregiver in determining whether to allow a child in his or her care to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities. The standard is characterized by careful and thoughtful parental decisionmaking that is intended to maintain a child's health, safety, and best

⁵⁷ *Id.*

⁵⁸ Bruskas, D., & Tessin, D. H. (2013). *Adverse childhood experiences and psychosocial well-being of women who were in foster care as children*. *The Permanente journal*, 17(3), e131–e141. <https://doi.org/10.7812/TPP/12-121>

⁵⁹ *Id.*

⁶⁰ Carolien Konijn, Sabine Admiraal, Josefiene Baart, Floor van Rooij, Geert-Jan Stams, Cristina Colonnaesi, Ramón Lindauer, Mark Assink, *Foster care placement instability: A meta-analytic review*, *Children and Youth Services Review*, Volume 96, 2019, Pages 483-499, ISSN 0190-7409, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2018.12.002>.

⁶¹ Juvenile Law Center, *Promoting Normalcy for Children and Youth in Foster Care*, available at: https://jlc.org/sites/default/files/publication_pdfs/JLC-NormalcyGuide-2015FINAL.pdf (last visited 1/16/26).

⁶² *Id.*

⁶³ Ch. 2013-21, L.O.F.

⁶⁴ Juvenile Law Center, *Promoting Normalcy for Children and Youth in Foster Care*, available at: https://jlc.org/sites/default/files/publication_pdfs/JLC-NormalcyGuide-2015FINAL.pdf (last visited 1/16/26).

⁶⁵ National Council of State Legislatures, *Foster Care Bill of Rights*, available at: <https://www.ncsl.org/human-services/-foster-care-bill-of-rights> (last visited 1/16/26).

interest while encouraging the child’s emotional and developmental growth.⁶⁶ When determining if a child may participate in extracurricular, enrichment, or social activities, the caregiver must consider the following factors of the reasonable and prudent parent standard:⁶⁷

- The child’s age, maturity, and developmental level to maintain the overall health and safety of the child.
- The potential risk factors and the appropriateness of the extracurricular, enrichment, or social activity.
- The best interest of the child, based on information known by the caregiver.
- The importance of encouraging the child’s emotional and developmental growth.
- The importance of providing the child with the most family-like living experience possible.
- The behavioral history of the child and the child’s ability to safely participate in the proposed activity.

Financial Allowances

Learning the value and use of money is an important aspect of normalcy in foster care. Current administrative rule requires the provision of an allowance to youth in out-of-home licensed care.⁶⁸ Such allowance should be provided at least monthly, should not be tied to behavior or the completion of chores or withheld as punishment.⁶⁹ Additionally, children should not be expected to use such an allowance to purchase personal hygiene items, school supplies, clothing, or other necessities.⁷⁰

Current administrative rule does not dictate the amount of allowance each youth should receive.⁷¹ However, the details of a child’s allowance must be included in the child’s transition plan, if they are of sufficient age and intellectual ability to manage their allowance.⁷²

Federal Funding for Child Welfare

Title IV-E

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, entitled “Grants to States for Aid and Services to Needy Families with Children and for Child-Welfare Services,” allows states to claim partial federal reimbursement for the cost of providing foster care, adoption assistance, and kinship guardianship assistance.⁷³ To receive such reimbursement, states must follow a Title IV-E State Plan that is approved by the federal government.⁷⁴ For Fiscal Year 2026, Florida received \$70,173,155 for the Title IV-E Foster Care Program.⁷⁵

⁶⁶ Section 409.145(2)(a)3., F.S.

⁶⁷ Section 409.145(2)(b), F.S.

⁶⁸ 65C-28.009(9), F.A.C.

⁶⁹ 65C-28.009(9)(d), F.A.C.

⁷⁰ *Id.*

⁷¹ *See generally*, 65C-28.009, F.A.C.

⁷² 65C-28.009(9)(b), F.A.C.

⁷³ Congress.gov, *Child Welfare: State Plan Requirements under the Title IV-E Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, and Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program*, available at: <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R42794> (last visited 1/16/26).

⁷⁴ Congress.gov, *Child Welfare: State Plan Requirements under the Title IV-E Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, and Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program*, available at: <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R42794> (last visited 1/16/26).

⁷⁵ Tracking Accountability in Government Grants System, *Awards Search – Title IV-E Foster Care*, available at: <https://taggs.hhs.gov/SearchAward> (last visited 1/28/26).

Foster Care Maintenance Payments

Foster Care Maintenance Payments are payments that cover the cost of food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, a child's personal incidentals, liability insurance, and reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation, and reasonable travel for the child to remain in the school in which the child was enrolled at the time of placement in out-of-home care.⁷⁶ The monthly room and board rate foster parents receive under s. 409.145, F.S. is funded through Title IV-E Foster Care Maintenance Payments.⁷⁷

Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood

In addition to federal funds for children currently in foster care, states may receive federal reimbursement to provide services to young adults as they age out of the foster care system through the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee program). The Chafee funds may be used to help a child aging out of the foster care system with education, employment, financial management, housing, emotional support, and assured connections to caring adults.⁷⁸ Each state varies in the services funded by the Chafee program, and are often based on the individual needs of a young adult.⁷⁹ In Fiscal Year 2025, Florida received \$7,142,900 from the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program funds.⁸⁰

Lived Experience in Child Welfare

Lived experience refers to the knowledge an individual has of a particular system, due to their personal involvement.⁸¹ Listening to the lived experiences of an individual helps to better understand the conditions affecting a certain population, (such as those in the child welfare system) solutions to address challenges that vulnerable populations face, and any unintended consequences from policies that were intended to support the population.⁸² In recent years, there has been an increased focus on engaging with individuals with lived experience in the child welfare system nationwide.⁸³

⁷⁶ 42 U.S.C. 675(4)(A)

⁷⁷ Department of Children and Families, *FY 2024-2025 CBC Cost Allocation Plan Template*, available at: <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.myflfamilies.com%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2025-05%2FFY%25202024-2025%2520CBC%2520Cost%2520Allocation%2520Plan%2520Template.doc&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK> (last visited 1/28/26).

⁷⁸ Administration for Children and Families, *John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition into Adulthood*, available at: <https://acf.gov/cb/grant-funding/john-h-chafee-foster-care-independence-program> (last visited 1/28/26).

⁷⁹ *Id.*

⁸⁰ Tracking Accountability in Government Grants System, *John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood*, available at: https://taggs.hhs.gov/Detail/CFDADetail?arg_CFDA_NUM=93674&utm_source=chatgpt.com (last visited 1/28/26).

⁸¹ Child Welfare Information Gateway, *Lived Experience*, available at: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/casework-practice/lived-experience/?top=275> (last visited 1/21/26).

⁸² Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Methods and Emerging Strategies to Engage People with Lived Experience*, available at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/62e7a64c60e10c47484b763aa9868f99/lived-experience-brief.pdf> (last visited 1/21/26).

⁸³ Administration for Children and Families, *Incorporating Lived Experience into Child Welfare Capacity Building*, available at: <https://acf.gov/cb/report/incorporating-lived-experience-child-welfare-capacity-building> (last visited 1/21/26).

Statewide Youth Advisory Board

In 2025, the DCF launched the Statewide Youth Advisory Board (Board), which engages young adults with previous experience in the child welfare system.⁸⁴ Through the Board, young adults may share their insights and ideas about improving the child welfare system with the DCF, while also developing their advocacy skills.⁸⁵ The Board is youth-led and self-standing, and applicants must be endorsed by a CBC lead agency or a state-recognized Youth Advocacy Organization.⁸⁶ Individuals may be a voting member, non-voting member, or an officer, based on their age, as described below:⁸⁷

- Voting Members: 18-23 years of age.
- Non-Voting Members: 14-26 years of age.
- Officer Positions: 18-23 years of age.

The Board aims to conduct the following:⁸⁸

- **Promote participation** of youth and young adults in DCF decision-making processes, ensuring consistent and constructive feedback from individuals with lived experience.
- **Establish a structured partnership** between youth members and the DCF, guided by the Youth Advisor.
- **Equip young adults** with the necessary skills and knowledge to lead impactful discussions with key stakeholders, including DCF leadership.
- **Develop leadership skills** for youth members through training in advocacy, public speaking, and policy development.
- **Improve communication** between DCF staff and youth communities.
- **Maintain independence** as a youth-led group while collaborating closely with the DCF to improve services and policies affecting youth.
- **Incorporate youth perspectives** into DCF initiatives, policies, and programs impacting their lives.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 39.4085, F.S., to modify the goals for dependent children and require the DCF and each CBC lead agency to coordinate with organizations that are focused on empowering children with lived experience to address challenges and opportunities for children in the child welfare system. The bill establishes the requirements for such coordination, requiring the DCF or CBC lead agency and organizations to meet quarterly in person or via electronic means, publish a formal agenda and, after the meeting, minutes on the DCF's or CBC lead agency's website.

⁸⁴ Florida Department of Children and Families, *The Florida DCF Announces the Launch of the Statewide Youth Advisory Board*, available at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/newsroom/press-release/florida-department-children-and-families-announces-launch> (last visited 1/21/26).

⁸⁵ *Id.*

⁸⁶ Florida Department of Children and Families, *Statewide Youth Advisory Board*, available at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/statewide-youth-advisory-board> (last visited 1/21/26).

⁸⁷ *Id.*

⁸⁸ Florida Department of Children and Families, *Statewide Youth Advisory Board*, available at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/statewide-youth-advisory-board> (last visited 1/21/26).

The bill requires the DCF and each CBC lead agency to publish on their respective websites a report that outlines how the DCF and CBC lead agencies have implemented the suggestions received from organizations in the quarterly meetings. Such reports must be published by February 1 and August 1 annually, beginning in 2027.

Section 2 amends s. 409.145, F.S. to require caregivers of children in the child welfare system to provide each child in his or her care a weekly cash allowance, beginning when the child attains six years of age.

The bill establishes the minimum weekly allowance a child must receive, as follows:

- For children ages 6-12 years: \$1 for each year of age per week. Equal to \$24 to \$48 per month, per child.
- For children ages 13-17 years: \$20 per week. Equal to \$80 per month, per child.

The bill prohibits the weekly cash allowance from being tied to the child's behavior or the completion of the child's chores. Further, caregivers are prohibited from withholding the child's allowance as a form of punishment or requiring the child to use his or her allowance to purchase person hygiene items, school supplies, clothing, or other necessities that are the caregiver's responsibility to purchase.

The bill encourages caregivers to offer the child opportunities to earn additional money through chores and help a child obtain employment, if the child desires.

The bill includes the provision of a weekly cash allowance in the application of the reasonable and prudent parenting standard of care.

This change is intended to emphasize normalcy in foster care, and promote independence, responsibility, and decision making as the child learns the value and use of money.

The bill gives rulemaking authority to the DCF.

Section 3 provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

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 identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill requires the provision of a weekly allowance for children in out-of-home care based on their age. This requirement is:

- o For children ages 6-12 years: \$1 for each year of age per week. Equal to \$24 to \$48 per month, per child.
- o For children ages 13-17 years: \$20 per week. Equal to \$80 per month, per child.

The Department of Children and Families estimates an annual fiscal impact to the state of approximately **\$6,047,444** based on the current number of children in out-of-home care eligible for the allowance, the weekly allowance amount based on the child’s age, and the number of weeks per year.⁸⁹

To estimate the fiscal impact, the department multiplied the number of children in out-of-home care in each age group by the weekly allowance amount they would receive based on their age. To estimate this cost for one year, the department multiplied that number by the number of weeks per year, as follows:⁹⁰

Cost of Allowance = Number of Children * Weekly Allowance Amount * Number of Weeks Per Year

Allowance Fiscal Projections				
Age	Number of Children	Proposed Weekly Allowance Amount	Weeks Per Year	Total Per Year
6	772	\$6 per week	52	\$240,864
7	692	\$7 per week	52	\$251,888
8	684	\$8 per week	52	\$284,544
9	634	\$9 per week	52	\$296,712

⁸⁹ E-mail with Chancer Teel, Legislative Affairs Director (on file with the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs).

⁹⁰ E-mail with Chancer Teel, Legislative Affairs Director (on file with the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs).

Allowance Fiscal Projections				
Age	Number of Children	Proposed Weekly Allowance Amount	Weeks Per Year	Total Per Year
10	626	\$10 per week	52	\$325,520
11	625	\$11 per week	52	\$357,500
12	634	\$12 per week	52	\$395,616
13-17	3,745	\$20 per week	52	\$3,894,800
Total				\$6,047,444

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 39.4085, 409.145

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 Polsky

30-01095-26

20261022__

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to children's initiatives; amending s.
 3 409.147, F.S.; establishing the Bay County 32401
 4 Children's Initiative in Bay County and the Pompano
 5 RYZE Children's Initiative in Broward County;
 6 providing for the projects to be managed by not-for-
 7 profit corporations; declaring that the initiatives
 8 are subject to state public records and meeting
 9 requirements and procurement of commodities and
 10 contractual services requirements; requiring
 11 designated children's initiatives to assist in the
 12 creation of community-based service networks and
 13 programming that provides certain services for
 14 children and families residing in disadvantaged areas
 15 of this state; providing for evaluation, fiscal
 16 management, and oversight of the projects; providing
 17 an effective date.

18
 19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20
 21 Section 1. Present subsection (14) of section 409.147,
 22 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (16) and
 23 amended, and new subsections (14) and (15) are added to that
 24 section, to read:

25 409.147 Florida Children's Initiatives.—

26 (14) THE BAY COUNTY 32401 CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE.—

27 (a) There is created within Bay County a project called the
 28 Bay County 32401 Children's Initiative managed by an entity
 29 organized as a not-for-profit corporation registered,

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20261022__

30 incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance with chapter
31 617 and this section. Public policy dictates that the Bay County
32 32401 Children's Initiative operate in the most open and
33 accessible manner consistent with its public purpose. Therefore,
34 the Legislature declares that the Bay County 32401 Children's
35 Initiative is subject to chapter 119, relating to public
36 records; chapter 286, relating to public meetings and records;
37 and chapter 287, relating to the procurement of commodities or
38 contractual services.

39 (b) This initiative is designed to encompass an area that
40 is large enough to include all of the necessary components of
41 community life, including, but not limited to, schools, places
42 of worship, recreational facilities, commercial areas, and
43 common spaces, yet small enough to allow programs and services
44 to reach every member of the neighborhood who is willing to
45 participate in the project.

46 (15) POMPANO RYZE CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE.—

47 (a) There is created within Broward County a project called
48 the Pompano RYZE (Resilient Youth with Zeal to Excel) Children's
49 Initiative managed by an entity organized as a not-for-profit
50 corporation registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in
51 compliance with chapter 617 and this section. Public policy
52 dictates that the Pompano RYZE Children's Initiative operate in
53 the most open and accessible manner consistent with its public
54 purpose. Therefore, the Legislature declares that the Pompano
55 RYZE Children's Initiative is subject to chapter 119, relating
56 to public records; chapter 286, relating to public meetings and
57 records; and chapter 287, relating to the procurement of
58 commodities or contractual services.

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59 (b) This initiative is designed to encompass an area that
60 is large enough to include all of the necessary components of
61 community life, including, but not limited to, schools, places
62 of worship, recreational facilities, commercial areas, and
63 common spaces, yet small enough to allow programs and services
64 to reach every member of the neighborhood who is willing to
65 participate in the project.

66 (16)~~(14)~~ IMPLEMENTATION.—

67 (a) The Miami Children's Initiative, Inc., the New Town
68 Success Zone, the Orlando Kidz Zones, the Tampa SSNOP, ~~and~~ the
69 Overtown Children and Youth Coalition, the Bay County 32401
70 Children's Initiative, and the Pompano RYZE Children's
71 Initiative have been designated as Florida Children's
72 Initiatives consistent with the legislative intent and purpose
73 of s. 16, chapter 2009-43, Laws of Florida, and as such shall
74 each assist the disadvantaged areas of this state in creating a
75 community-based service network and programming that develops,
76 coordinates, and provides quality education, accessible health
77 care, youth development programs, opportunities for employment,
78 and safe and affordable housing for children and families living
79 within their boundaries.

80 (b) To implement this section for the Florida Children's
81 Initiatives listed in this section, the department shall
82 contract with a not-for-profit corporation, to work in
83 collaboration with the governing body to adopt the resolution
84 described in subsection (4), to establish the planning team as
85 provided in subsection (5), and to develop and adopt the
86 strategic community plan as provided in subsection (6). The not-
87 for-profit corporation is also responsible for the development

30-01095-26

20261022__

88 of a strategic business plan and for the evaluation, fiscal
89 management, and oversight of the Florida Children's Initiatives.

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

Lowery, Nikki

From: Rao, Jacqueline
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 8:23 AM
To: Lowery, Nikki
Subject: Fw: Children's Initiatives Designation

Jacqueline Rao

Legislative Analyst
Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
(850) 487-5340

From: Winnie Heggins <wheggins@ounce.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 12:37 PM
To: Tuszynski, Tyler <TUSZYNSKI.TYLER@flsenate.gov>
Cc: Rao, Jacqueline <Rao.Jacqueline@flsenate.gov>; Sheals, LaToya <lsheals@beckerlawyers.com>
Subject: RE: Children's Initiatives Designation

Thank you! You too!

Winifred P. Heggins, MSW
Vice President
The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida
850-782-4008 office
850-933-2846 cell

From: Tuszynski, Tyler <TUSZYNSKI.TYLER@flsenate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 12:35 PM
To: Winnie Heggins <wheggins@ounce.org>
Cc: Rao, Jacqueline <Rao.Jacqueline@flsenate.gov>; Sheals, LaToya <lsheals@beckerlawyers.com>
Subject: RE: Children's Initiatives Designation

You are amazing.

Thank you so much and have a beautiful rest of the week and weekend! 😊

Respectfully,

Tyler

Tyler C. Tuszynski

Staff Director
Florida Senate
Committee on Children, Families, & Elder Affairs
520 Knott
(850) 487-5340
tuszynski.tyler@flsenate.gov

From: Winnie Heggins <wheggins@ounce.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 12:33 PM
To: Tuszynski, Tyler <TUSZYNSKI.TYLER@flsenate.gov>
Cc: Rao, Jacqueline <Rao.Jacqueline@flsenate.gov>; Sheals, LaToya <lsheals@beckerlawyers.com>
Subject: RE: Children's Initiatives Designation

The Community Foundation of Broward
Goshen Community Resource & Recovery Center, Inc.

Winifred P. Heggins, MSW
Vice President
The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida
850-782-4008 office
850-933-2846 cell

From: Tuszynski, Tyler <TUSZYNSKI.TYLER@flsenate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 12:13 PM
To: Winnie Heggins <wheggins@ounce.org>
Cc: Rao, Jacqueline <Rao.Jacqueline@flsenate.gov>; Sheals, LaToya <lsheals@beckerlawyers.com>
Subject: RE: Children's Initiatives Designation

Thank you so much, Winnie!

The only other info that would be helpful is if you could give us the name of the identified or created not-for-profits associated with each of the designees.

Respectfully,

Tyler

Tyler C. Tuszynski

Staff Director
Florida Senate
Committee on Children, Families, & Elder Affairs
520 Knott
(850) 487-5340
tuszynski.tyler@flsenate.gov

From: Winnie Heggins <wheggins@ounce.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 12:07 PM
To: Tuszynski, Tyler <TUSZYNSKI.TYLER@flsenate.gov>
Cc: Rao, Jacqueline <Rao.Jacqueline@flsenate.gov>; Sheals, LaToya <lsheals@beckerlawyers.com>
Subject: RE: Children's Initiatives Designation

Greetings,

Both Bay and Broward have met the designation requirements.

Broward- February 2025
Bay- March 2025

Let me know if you require any further information.

Regards,

Winifred P. Heggins, MSW
Vice President
The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida
850-782-4008 office
850-933-2846 cell

From: Tuszynski, Tyler <TUSZYNSKI.TYLER@flsenate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 2:04 PM
To: Winnie Heggins <wheggins@ounce.org>
Cc: Rao, Jacqueline <Rao.Jacqueline@flsenate.gov>
Subject: Children's Initiatives Designation

Winnie,

I just left you a voicemail, and then promptly found your email again. I had talked to Jennifer earlier today checking on the status of the two new Children's Initiative's that are proposed to be entered into statute:

- Bay County 32401; and
- Pompano Ryze

I was looking to get confirmation from the Ounce that they have met all statutory requirements and have been designated by the Ounce as Children's Initiatives. For completion and our records

Could you please affirm that both have met all designation requirements by the Ounce and also give us the names of the identified or created not-for-profits associated with each?

Thank you so much for your work in this area.

Respectfully,

Tyler

Tyler C. Tuszynski

Staff Director
Florida Senate
Committee on Children, Families, & Elder Affairs
520 Knott
(850) 487-5340
tuszynski.tyler@flsenate.gov

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 Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

BILL: SB 1022
INTRODUCER: Senator Polsky
SUBJECT: Children’s Initiatives
DATE: February 2, 2026 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Rao	Tuszynski	CF	Favorable
2.			AHS	
3.			FP	

I. Summary:

Children’s Initiatives are community-based service networks located in disadvantaged areas to develop and provide economic opportunities for children and families that live in the area.

SB 1022 provides for the creation of the Bay County 32401 Children’s Initiative within Bay County and the Pompano RYZE (Resilient Youth with Zeal to Excel) Children’s Initiative within Broward County.

The bill requires both Children’s Initiatives to be managed by a not-for-profit corporation that is in compliance with the requirements for not-for-profit corporations in Ch. 617, F.S. The areas the Children’s Initiatives serve must be large enough to include all the necessary components of community life, yet small enough to serve all members of the community who wish to participate in the project.

Both Children’s Initiatives are operating currently and have completed the requirements to be designated as a Children’s Initiatives according to the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, the organization responsible for designating an area as a Children’s Initiative.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Florida Children's Initiatives

In 2008, the Legislature created Children's Initiatives.¹ Acknowledging the lack of infrastructure and opportunities that is present in some communities in the state, Children's Initiatives are intended to assist disadvantaged areas within the state in creating a community-based service network that develops, coordinates, and provides quality education, accessible health care, youth development programs, opportunities for employment, and safe and affordable housing for children and families living within that area.²

The state leverages investments that are intended to encourage community partners to commit financial resources to disadvantaged areas. Section 409.147, F.S., outlines the process for a county or municipality (or a county and one or more municipalities together) to apply to the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida to designate an area as a Florida Children's Initiative. Generally, the governing body of the county or municipality must first adopt a resolution finding the area has issues related to poverty, that changes are necessary for the area to improve, and that resources are necessary for the revitalization of the area.³ Following the adoption of the resolution, the county or municipality must establish a children's initiative planning team and develop and adopt a strategic community plan. Once a county or municipality has completed these steps, it must create a not-for-profit corporation.⁴

Florida Children's Initiative Planning Team

The Children's Initiative planning team is responsible for developing a planning process that builds a commitment to achieving the vision of the Florida Children's Initiative concept.⁵ The planning team must identify the opportunities, strengths, challenges, and problems in the Florida Children's Initiatives, and develop a vision of what the Florida Children's Initiative will look like when such issues are addressed. Additionally, the planning team must develop a strategic community plan that consists of goals, objectives, tasks, the designation of responsible parties, the identification of necessary resources, implementation timelines, and monitoring procedures.⁶

There is no statutory requirement for the number of individuals that must be on a planning team; however, at least half of the members must be residents. The other half of the planning team may include representatives from community-based organizations and other community institutions.

Planning teams are required to designate working groups that address each of the following focus areas:⁷

- Early development and care of children.
- Education of children and youth.

¹ Children's Initiatives were originally referred to as "Children's Zones" in 2008; in 2009, the Legislature changed the name to "Children's Initiatives." See Ch. 2008-96, L.O.F. and Ch. 2009-43, L.O.F.

² Section 409.147(1), F.S.

³ Section 409.147(4), F.S.

⁴ Section 409.147(4), F.S.

⁵ Section 409.147(5), F.S.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Section 409.147(5), F.S.

- Health and wellness.
- Youth support.
- Parent and guardian support.
- Adult education, training, and jobs.
- Community safety.
- Housing and community development.

Florida Children’s Initiatives Strategic Community Plan

Each working group created by the planning team must develop objectives and identify strategies for each focus area that include, but are not limited to, the following:⁸

Objectives for Each Working Group Focus Area	
Focus Area	Objectives for Working Group
Early Development and Care of Children	Providing resources to enable every child to be adequately nurtured during the first 3 years of life.
	Ensuring that all schools are ready for children and all children are ready for school by the time they reach kindergarten.
	Facilitating enrollment in half-day or full-day prekindergarten for all 3-year-old and 4-year-old children.
	Strengthening parent and guardian relationships with care providers.
	Providing support and education for families and child care providers.
Education of children and youth	Increasing the level and degree of knowledge and accountability of persons who are responsible for the development and well-being of all children in each Florida Children’s Initiative.
	Transforming the structure and function of schools to increase the quality and amount of time spent on instruction and increase programmatic options and offerings.
	Creating a safe and respectful environment for student learning.
	Identifying and supporting points of alignment between a Florida Children’s Initiative community plan and the school district’s strategic plan.
Health and Wellness	Facilitating enrollment of all eligible children in the Florida Kidcare program and providing full access to high-quality drug and alcohol treatment services.
	Eliminating health disparities between racial and cultural groups, including improving outcomes and increasing interventions.
	Providing fresh, good quality, affordable, and nutritious food within a Florida Children’s Initiative.
	Providing all children in a Florida Children’s Initiative with access to safe structured and unstructured recreation.
Youth support	Increasing the high school graduation, postsecondary enrollment, and postsecondary completion rates among neighborhood youth.
	Increasing leadership development and employment opportunities for neighborhood youth.
Parent and guardian support	Increasing parent and adult literacy.
	Expanding access for parents to critical resources, such as jobs, transportation, day care, and after-school care.
	Improving the effectiveness of the ways in which support systems communication and collaborate with parents and the ways in which parents communicate and collaborate with support systems.

⁸ Section 409.147(6), F.S.

Objectives for Each Working Group Focus Area	
Focus Area	Objectives for Working Group
	Making the services of the Healthy Families Florida program available to provide multiyear support to expectant parents and persons caring for infants and toddlers.
Adult education, training, and jobs	Creating job opportunities for adults that lead to career development.
	Establish a career and technical school, or a satellite of such a school within a Florida Children’s Initiative, which includes a one-stop career center.
Community safety	Providing a safe environment for all children at home, in school, and in the community.
	Eliminating the economic, political, and social forces that lead to a lack of safety within the family, the community, schools, and institutional structures.
	Assessing policies and practices, including sentencing, incarceration, detention, and data reporting, to reduce youth incarceration, violence, crime, and recidivism.
Housing and community development	Strengthening the residential real estate market.
	Building on existing efforts to promote socioeconomic diversity when developing a comprehensive land use strategic plan.
	Promoting neighborhood beautification strategies.

Florida Children’s Initiatives Corporation

Each Florida Children’s Initiative must identify an existing, qualified not-for-profit corporation or create a not-for-profit corporation that is registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance with Ch. 617, F.S., which is the state’s Not For Profit Corporation Act.⁹ Such a corporation is intended to facilitate fundraising and secure broad community ownership of the initiative. Further, the corporation will assume the responsibility for planning from the planning team and begin the implementation and governance of the strategic community plan.¹⁰

Current Florida Children’s Initiatives

Currently, there are five recognized Florida Children’s Initiatives, as follows:¹¹

- Miami Children’s Initiative.¹²
- The New Town Success Zone.¹³
- The Orlando Kidz Zones.¹⁴
- The Tampa Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise (SSNOP).¹⁵
- The Overtown Children and Youth Coalition.¹⁶

Each Florida Children’s Initiative must update the strategic community plan every 5 years to reflect, at a minimum, the following:¹⁷

- The current status of the area served by the Florida Children’s Initiative;

⁹ Section 409.147(7), F.S. and Ch. 617, F.S.

¹⁰ Section 409.147(7), F.S.

¹¹ Section 409.147, F.S.

¹² Section 409.147(9), F.S.

¹³ Section 409.147(10), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 409.147(11), F.S.

¹⁵ Section 409.147(12), F.S.

¹⁶ Section 409.147(13), F.S.

¹⁷ Section 409.147(7), F.S.

- The goals, objectives, and strategies for each focus area; and
- The tasks required to implement the strategies for the upcoming year.

The Ounce of Prevention is required to provide technical assistance to the Children’s Initiative corporation to facilitate the implementation of the strategic community plan.¹⁸

Exemptions and Requirements for Florida Children’s Initiatives

Florida Children’s Initiatives are designed to encompass an area large enough to include all of the necessary components of community life, including, but not limited to, schools, places of worship, recreational facilities, commercial areas, and common space, yet small enough to allow programs and services to reach every member of the neighborhood who is willing to participate in the project.¹⁹ Not-for-profit corporations designated as Children’s Initiatives are not subject to the control, supervision, or direction by any department of the state.²⁰ However, the corporations are subject to Ch. 119, F.S., relating to public records; ch. 286, F.S. relating to public meetings and records; and ch. 287, F.S., relating to procurement of commodities or contractual services. Corporations must comply with these requirements to operate in the “most open and accessible manner” consistent with its public purpose.²¹

The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida

The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida (Ounce) is a private, nonprofit corporation dedicated to shaping prevention policy and investing in innovative prevention programs that provide measurable benefits to Florida’s children, families, and communities.²² The Ounce identifies, funds, supports, and tests programs to improve the life outcomes of children, preserve and strengthen families, and promote health behavior and functioning in society.²³ The Ounce is identified in statute as the organization that is able to designate areas in Florida as Children’s Initiatives.²⁴ The Ounce has not been appropriated funds to fund new or existing Children’s Initiatives since 2022.²⁵

Bay County 32401 Children’s Initiative

Bay County is located in the Panhandle region of Northwest Florida, spanning 1,033.3 square miles.²⁶ As of July 1, 2024, there was an estimated 199,718 residents, with the median household

¹⁸ Section 409.147(7), F.S.

¹⁹ See Section 409.147, F.S.

²⁰ Section 409.147(7), F.S.

²¹ See Section 409.147, F.S.

²² The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, available at: <https://www.ounce.org/index.asp> (last visited 1/28/26).

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ Section 409.147(4), F.S.

²⁵ Ch. 2022-156, L.O.F., specific appropriation 318.

²⁶ Bay County Florida, *Geography & Climate*, available at: <https://www.baycountyfl.gov/340/Geography-Climate> (last visited 1/28/26).

income from 2019-2023 of \$70,188.²⁷ In Bay County, 11.6% of individuals are reported to live in poverty.²⁸

Goshen Community Resource and Recovery Center (Goshen) is the not-for-profit corporation associated with the Bay County 32401 Children's Initiative.²⁹ Established in 2019, Goshen strives to provide educational, economic, and social assistance to those in the community that are abused, neglected, abandoned, and disenfranchised.³⁰ The organization facilitates food donation distributions, provides referral services to other community organizations, and operates a recovery center that provides counseling, education, and financial literacy supports to disenfranchised individuals in the community.³¹

The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida reports that the Bay County 32401 has met the statutory requirements and was designated as a Children's Initiative in March 2025.³²

Pompano RYZE Children's Initiative

Broward County is a county located in Southeast Florida with 31 cities.³³ The county has an estimated number of 2,037,472 residents, with 11.7% of residents living in poverty.³⁴

The Community Foundation of Broward (Community Foundation) is the not-for-profit corporation associated with the Pompano RYZE Children's Initiative.³⁵ The Community Foundation is a grantmaking public charity that supports individuals, families, and local organizations as they create personalized charitable funds to assist Broward County.³⁶ The Community Foundation has six focus areas that it emphasizes in grantmaking to improve Broward County, as follows:³⁷

- Education & Youth Enrichment.
- Social & Economic Mobility.

²⁷ Bay County Florida, *Geography & Climate*, available at: <https://www.baycountyfl.gov/340/Geography-Climate> (last visited 1/28/26).

²⁸ United States Census Bureau, *Bay County, Florida*, available at: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/baycountyflorida/PST045225> (last visited 1/28/26).

²⁹ E-mail with Winifred Heggins, Vice President of the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida (on file with the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs).

³⁰ Goshen Community Resource and Recovery Center, Inc, *Experience Goshen Community Resource and Recovery Center*, available at: <https://www.goshencommunitypc.com/> (last visited 1/29/26).

³¹ Goshen Community Resource and Recovery Center, Inc, *Experience Goshen Community Resource and Recovery Center*, available at: <https://www.goshencommunitypc.com/> (last visited 1/29/26).

³² E-mail with Winifred Heggins, Vice President of the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida (on file with the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs).

³³ World Population Review, *Broward County, Florida*, available at: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/florida/by-county/broward-county> (last visited 1/28/26).

³⁴ United States Census Bureau, *Broward County, Florida*, available at: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/browardcountyflorida/PST045225> (last visited 1/28/26).

³⁵ E-mail with Winifred Heggins, Vice President of the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida (on file with the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs).

³⁶ Community Foundation of Broward, *What We Do*, available at: <https://www.cfbroward.org/about-us/our-story> (last visited 1/29/26).

³⁷ Community Foundation of Broward, *Mission, Vision, & Values*, available at: <https://www.cfbroward.org/about-us/mission-vision-values> (last visited 1/29/26).

- Healthy & Thriving Communities.
- Art & Culture.
- Building Community and Opportunity.
- Strong Nonprofit Community.

The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida reports that Pompano RYZE has met all statutory requirements and was designated as a Children’s Initiative in February 2025.³⁸

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 of the bill amends s. 409.147, F.S. to create the Bay County 32401 Children’s Initiative within Bay County and the Pompano RYZE (Resilient Youth with Zeal to Excel) Children’s Initiative within Broward County.

The bill requires both Children’s Initiatives to be managed by a not-for-profit corporation that is registered, incorporated, organized, and operated in compliance with Ch. 617, F.S. The Initiatives must operate in the most open and accessible manner consistent with its public purpose and be subject to the following chapters in Florida statute:

- Chapter 119, relating to public records;
- Chapter 286, relating to public meetings and records; and
- Chapter 287, relating to the procurement of commodities or contractual services.

The bill establishes that both Bay County 32401 Children’s initiative and Pompano RYZE Children’s Initiative are designed to encompass an area that is large enough to include all of the necessary components of community life, including, but not limited to, schools, places of worship, recreational facilities, commercial areas, and common spaces, yet small enough to allow programs and services to reach every member of the neighborhood who is willing to participate in the project.

The bill adds the Bay County 32401 Children’s Initiative and the Pompano RYZE Children’s Initiatives to the implementation section of s. 409.147, F.S., including the two Children’s Initiatives in the list of Children’s Initiatives that are required to assist the disadvantaged areas of Florida in creating a community-based service network.

Section 2 provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

³⁸ E-mail with Winifred Heggins, Vice President of the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida (on file with the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs).

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

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: 409.147

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 Bracy Davis

15-00782-26

20261462__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to temporary cash assistance
3 eligibility; amending s. 414.095, F.S.; deleting the
4 prohibition against awarding benefits to a person who
5 has a felony drug conviction for trafficking; deleting
6 specified requirements a person convicted of a drug
7 felony must meet to receive benefits; providing an
8 effective date.

9
10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11
12 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 414.095, Florida
13 Statutes, is amended to read:

14 414.095 Determining eligibility for temporary cash
15 assistance.—

16 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—An applicant must meet the eligibility
17 requirements of this section before receiving services or
18 temporary cash assistance under this chapter, except that an
19 applicant is ~~shall be~~ required to register for work and engage
20 in work activities in accordance with s. 445.024, as designated
21 by the local workforce development board, and may receive
22 support services or child care assistance in conjunction with
23 such requirement. The department shall make a determination of
24 eligibility based on the criteria listed in this chapter. The
25 department shall monitor continued eligibility for temporary
26 cash assistance through periodic reviews consistent with the
27 food assistance eligibility process. Benefits may not be denied
28 to an individual solely based on a felony drug conviction,
29 ~~unless the conviction is for trafficking pursuant to s. 893.135.~~

15-00782-26

20261462__

30 ~~To be eligible under this section, an individual convicted of a~~
31 ~~drug felony must be satisfactorily meeting the requirements of~~
32 ~~the temporary cash assistance program, including all substance~~
33 ~~abuse treatment requirements. Within the limits specified in~~
34 ~~this chapter,~~ The state opts out of the provision of Pub. L. No.
35 104-193, s. 115, that eliminates eligibility for temporary cash
36 assistance and food assistance for any individual convicted of a
37 controlled substance felony.

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

Lowery, Nikki

From: Fiore, John
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 11:18 AM
To: Teel, Chancer
Cc: Ford, Donna
Subject: RE: Senate Request: SB 1462 Temporary Cash Assistance Eligibility

Thank you, Chancer!

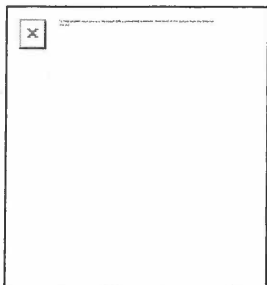
Best,
JP

From: Teel, Chancer <chancer.teel@myflfamilies.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 11:08 AM
To: Fiore, John <Fiore.John@flsenate.gov>
Cc: Ford, Donna <Donna.Ford@myflfamilies.com>
Subject: RE: Senate Request: SB 1462 Temporary Case Assistance Eligibility

Goof morning JP!

- Federal law prohibits TCA and SNAP eligibility for any individual with a felony drug conviction and imposes a lifetime ban on those benefits. However, states may elect to opt out of the provision. Florida has opted out of this federal provision and operates both programs under a modified ban. An applicant may not be denied benefits solely based on a felony drug conviction, unless the conviction is for drug trafficking including agreeing, conspiring, combining, or confederating with another person to commit an act after August 22, 1996.
- In 2025, 3 individuals were denied TCA benefits due to a drug trafficking conviction. 62 were denied for SNAP.
- This number is based on applicants who report a felony drug trafficking conviction during the application/eligibility process. The number of people who choose not to apply due to a felony drug trafficking conviction is unknown.
- The estimated fiscal impact is below.
 - TCA = \$801.00 per month or \$9,612 annually
 - SNAP = \$33,232.00 per month or \$398,784.00 annually

Respectfully,



Chancer Teel
Legislative Affairs Director
Florida Department of Children and Families
2415 North Monroe Street, A153
Tallahassee, Florida 32303
Office: (850) 488-9410
Cell: (850) 933-7101

From: Fiore, John <Fiore.John@flsenate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 5:44 PM
To: Teel, Chancer <chancer.teel@myflfamilies.com>
Cc: Ford, Donna <donna.ford@myflfamilies.com>
Subject: Senate Request: SB 1462 Temporary Case Assistance Eligibility

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Children and Families. Whether you know the sender or not, do not click links or open attachments you were not expecting.

Chancer,

Does the Department have an idea of how many individuals have been disqualified from receiving TCA benefits on the basis of felony drug trafficking? If those individuals are no longer disqualified, what would be the fiscal impact to TCA?

Need a quick turnaround. Thank you!

Best,
JP

John Paul Fiore
Senior Attorney
Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
The Florida Senate
337 Knott Building
(850)487-5782



191014

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/03/2026	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs (Bracy Davis) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 28 - 34

and insert:

to an individual solely based on a felony drug conviction,
unless the conviction is for trafficking pursuant to s. 893.135.
An individual may not be denied benefits solely on the basis of
a drug trafficking conviction pursuant to s. 893.135 if the
conviction was obtained during a period of time that the
department has determined the individual was an active victim of



191014

11 human trafficking, as defined in s. 943.0583(1). To be eligible
12 under this section, an individual convicted of a drug felony
13 must be satisfactorily meeting the requirements of the temporary
14 cash assistance program, including all substance abuse treatment
15 requirements. Within the limits specified in this chapter, The
16 state opts out of the provision of Pub. L. No.

17

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

19 And the title is amended as follows:

20 Delete lines 3 - 7

21 and insert:

22 eligibility; amending s. 414.095, F.S.; providing that
23 benefits may not be denied to certain persons solely
24 on the basis of a drug trafficking conviction;
25 providing an

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 Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

BILL: CS/SB 1462

INTRODUCER: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee and Senator Bracy Davis

SUBJECT: Temporary Cash Assistance Eligibility

DATE: February 4, 2026

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Fiore	Tuszynski	CF	Fav/CS
2.			AHS	
3.			FP	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1462 revises eligibility requirements for Florida’s Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) program by removing restrictions on TCA eligibility based on certain criteria. Specifically, the bill amends s. 414.095, Florida Statutes (F.S.), to provide that someone who has been convicted of drug trafficking shall not be disqualified if that person is determined by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to have been a victim of human trafficking at the time the conviction was obtained.

The bill maintains Florida’s statutory opt-out of the federal lifetime ban on public assistance for individuals convicted of controlled substance felonies and the prohibition against denying TCA benefits solely on the basis of a felony drug conviction.

The bill has an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on state government with a potential increase in TCA expenditures to newly eligible individuals.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Temporary Cash Assistance Program

Florida's Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) program is the state's implementation of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant, authorized under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA).¹ The program is intended to provide short-term financial assistance to low-income families with children while promoting work, self-sufficiency, and family stability.² In Florida, the TCA program is administered by the DCF.³ To receive TCA benefits, an applicant must meet financial eligibility criteria and comply with work registration and participation requirements, unless exempt.⁴ Eligibility determinations and ongoing reviews are conducted by the DCF, which also monitors continued compliance with program requirements.⁵ As of December 2025, there were 16,563 families receiving TCA benefits.⁶

Eligibility

The TCA program requires applicants to meet the following criteria to be eligible:

- Be a U.S. citizen or qualified noncitizen;⁷
 - Qualified noncitizens include refugees, asylees, lawful permanent residents, Cuban or Haitian entrants, and certain battered individuals eligible under the Violence Against Women Act.⁸
 - Each member of the family household must provide a Social Security number or proof of application for a Social Security number.⁹
- Be a legal resident of Florida;¹⁰
- Have a minor child residing with a custodial parent or relative caregiver;¹¹
 - For pregnant woman with no other children, TCA benefits are generally restricted to the final month of pregnancy, with limited exceptions for medically restricted individuals during the last trimester.¹²
- Have a gross family household income of 185 percent or less of the federal poverty level;¹³

¹ Pub. L. 104-193, § 103, 110 Stat. 2105 (1996), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-104publ193/pdf/PLAW-104publ193.pdf>; and ss. 414.0252(12), 414.035, and 414.045, F.S.

² Sections 414.025, 414.085, 414.095(1), and 414.105, F.S.

³ See generally Ch. 414, F.S.; and Florida Department of Children and Families, *Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)*, <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/public-assistance/temporary-cash-assistance> (last visited on 1/28/2026).

⁴ Section 414.095(1), F.S.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Florida Department of Children and Families, *ESS Standard Reports: Flash Points*, available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/public-assistance/additional-resources-and-services/ess-standard> (last visited on 1/28/2026).

⁷ Section 414.095(2)(a)1., F.S.

⁸ Section 414.095(3), F.S.

⁹ Section 414.095(2)(a)3., F.S.

¹⁰ Section 414.095(2)(a)2., F.S.

¹¹ Section 414.095(2)(a)4., F.S.

¹² Section 414.095(5), F.S.

¹³ Section 414.085(1)(a), F.S.; see also U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *U.S. Federal Poverty Guidelines Used to Determine Financial Eligibility for Certain Programs*, HHS (2026), <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>.

- Have liquid and nonliquid resources, for all members of the family household, valued at no more than \$2,000 (excluding vehicles valued up to \$8,500, or up to any value if vehicle is used for and equipped for the transportation of a disabled family household member);¹⁴ and
- Register for work with the local workforce development board, unless an applicant qualifies for an exemption.¹⁵

Applications must be acted upon within 30 days, and benefits generally begin either upon approval or 30 days after application, whichever occurs first.¹⁶ TCA is generally limited to a lifetime maximum of 48 months unless the individual qualified under the following: hardship extension; exemption for victims of domestic violence; Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Disability Insurance recipient or applicant; individual caring for a disabled family member; or child-only case.¹⁷

Benefit Amounts

Florida law establishes a three-tier shelter payment standard, linking benefit levels to family size and shelter obligations.¹⁸ A “shelter obligation” exists when the family household has the responsibility to pay for the cost of housing, such as mortgage, rent or room and board payment.¹⁹ The following chart depicts the top levels of temporary cash assistance:

Family Size	Zero Shelter Obligation	Greater than Zero Less than or Equal to \$50	Greater than \$50 Shelter Obligation or Homeless
1	\$95	\$153	\$180
2	\$158	\$205	\$241
3	\$198	\$258	\$303
4	\$254	\$309	\$364
5	\$289	\$362	\$426
6	\$346	\$414	\$487
7	\$392	\$467	\$549
8	\$438	\$519	\$610
9	\$485	\$570	\$671
10	\$534	\$623	\$733
11	\$582	\$676	\$795
12	\$630	\$728	\$857
13	\$678	\$781	\$919

Benefits are calculated based on the average monthly gross family income, earned and unearned, less any applicable disregards (\$200 plus one-half of the remainder). The resulting monthly net income amount is then subtracted from the applicable payment standard to determine the monthly benefit amount.²⁰ The following table shows examples on how the shelter payment standard is applied in practice.

¹⁴ Section 414.075, F.S.
¹⁵ Section 414.095(1), F.S.
¹⁶ Section 414.095(8), F.S.
¹⁷ Section 414.105, F.S.
¹⁸ Section 414.095(10), F.S.
¹⁹ 65A-4.220(2)(b), F.A.C.
²⁰ Section 414.095(11)-(12), F.S.

Family Size	Shelter Obligation Tier	Payment Standard	Gross Income	Countable Net Income	Monthly TCA Grant
3	> \$50 / Homeless	\$303	\$0	\$0	\$303
2	> \$50 / Homeless	\$241	\$900	$\$900 - \$200 = \$700$ $\$700 / 2 = \mathbf{\$350}$	$\$241 - \$350 = -\$109$ \$0
2	> \$0 and ≤ \$50	\$205	\$600	$\$600 - \$200 = \$400$ $\$400 / 2 = \mathbf{\$200}$	$\$205 - \$200 = \$5$ \$5
3	\$0	\$198	\$500	$\$500 - \$200 = \$300$ $\$300 / 2 = \mathbf{\$150}$	$\$198 - \$150 = \$48$ \$48

TCA is issued as a single household grant and paid to one designated payee rather than distributed individually to each household member. It may be paid as follows:

- Direct payment through state warrant, electronic transfer of temporary cash assistance, or voucher.
- Payment to an alternative payee.
- Payment for subsidized employment.
- Pay-after-performance arrangements with public or private not-for-profit agencies.²¹

Controlled Substance Ban

PRWORA established a lifetime federal ban on TANF benefits for individuals convicted of a felony offense involving the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance.²² However, PRWORA expressly allows states to opt out of or modify this ban through state law. Florida has exercised this option and has statutorily opted out of the federal ban.

Current law reflects this opt-out while simultaneously imposing certain state-level restrictions and conditions related to felony drug convictions. TCA benefits may not be denied based solely on a felony drug conviction, unless the conviction involves drug trafficking under s. 893.135, F.S.,²³ which includes agreeing, conspiring, combining, or confederating with another person to commit drug trafficking.²⁴ Drug trafficking is a first-degree felony punishable by up to 30 years of imprisonment and, depending upon the drug type and amount trafficked, fines from \$25,000 to \$500,000.²⁵ During the application process, individuals seeking TCA benefits self-attest if they have been convicted of felony drug trafficking.²⁶ This information is then confirmed by an eligibility specialist during the applicant’s interview.²⁷ If the illegal behavior that led to the conviction occurred on or before August 22, 1996, or if a court expunges the felony drug trafficking conviction, the individual is not subject to the disqualification.²⁸

²¹ Section 414.095(13), F.S.

²² Pub. L. 104-193, § 115, 110 Stat. 2105 (1996).

²³ Section 414.095(1), F.S.

²⁴ Section 893.135(5), F.S.

²⁵ Section 893.135(1), F.S.

²⁶ Florida Department of Children and Families, Government Assistance Application: *ACCESS Florida Application*, at pg. 4, <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/public-assistance/additional-resources-and-services/ess-forms>.

²⁷ Florida Department of Children and Families, *ESS Policy Manual 0620.0105, Eligibility Interview (TCA)*, at pg. 8, <https://ffic.myflfamilies.com/manual/600.pdf> (last visited on 01/28/2026).

²⁸ Florida Department of Children and Families, *ESS Policy Manual 1420.2200, Individual Convicted Felony Drug Trafficking (TCA)*, at pg. 71, <https://ffic.myflfamilies.com/manual/1410.pdf> (last visited on 01/28/2026).

The DCF reports that three individuals were denied TCA benefits in 2025 due to drug trafficking convictions.²⁹ While an individual is disqualified, his or her family may still apply for and receive benefits. In such instances, the disqualified individual's needs are excluded in calculating the family's benefits, although the individual's income and assets are included in determining the household's eligibility.³⁰ This means that, while those with drug trafficking convictions may still apply for assistance for their children, the overall household receives less support because of the current bans.

Individuals who are convicted of a drug felony, but who are otherwise eligible for TCA benefits, are required to satisfactorily meet all program requirements, including any applicable substance abuse treatment requirements.³¹ Temporary exceptions from TCA work requirements may be granted to allow participation in outpatient substance abuse treatment for up to five hours per week, with an annual cap of 100 hours, subject to verification by the local workforce development board designee.³²

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery involving the transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing, enticing, maintaining, or obtaining, another person for the purpose of exploiting that person.³³ Victims of human trafficking are often subjected to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor.³⁴ Trafficking of illegal drugs and human trafficking often co-occur.³⁵ Victims of human trafficking may be exploited for the transport of illegal drugs and illegal drugs may also serve as a means of coercion by the trafficker.³⁶

Victims of human trafficking are frequently compelled to break the law and may be arrested as a result of that criminal act before they are recognized as a victim of human trafficking.³⁷ Once a human trafficking victim is charged with a crime, the circumstances around the arrest and the

²⁹ This number is based on applicants who report a felony drug trafficking conviction during the application/eligibility process. The number of people who choose not to apply due to a felony drug trafficking conviction is unknown. Email from Chancer Teel, Director of Legislative Affairs, Florida Department of Children and Families, *Senate Request: SB 1462 Temporary Cash Assistance Eligibility*, January 29, 2026.

³⁰ 65A-4.208(3), F.A.C.

³¹ Section 414.095(1), F.S.

³² 65A-4.206(7), F.A.C.

³³ Section 787.06, F.S.

³⁴ Sections 786.06(1)(a) and 943.0583(1)(c), F.S.

³⁵ U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, *Violent Drug Organizations Use Human Trafficking to Expand Profits*, <https://www.dea.gov/stories/2021/2021-01/2021-01-28/violent-drug-organizations-use-human-trafficking-expand-profits> (last visited on 02/03/2026).

³⁶ Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, *Intersections of Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault – National Organizational Advocacy Roundtable*, <https://api-gbv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Trafficking-DV-SA-Intersections-2016-formatted2019.pdf> (last visited on 02/03/2026).

³⁷ U.S. Department of State, *2025 Trafficking in Persons Report, Forced Criminality: Involuntary Crimes*, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2025-trafficking-in-persons-report/> (last visited on 02/03/2026).

overtaxed criminal court system create significant pressure on the victim to plead guilty, rather than contest the charge or seek to reveal the human trafficking situation.³⁸

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 414.095, F.S., to provide that someone who has been convicted of drug trafficking shall not be disqualified from TCA eligibility if that person is determined by the DCF to have been a victim of human trafficking at the time the conviction was obtained. Florida's opt-out of the federal lifetime ban under PRWORA is retained, thereby continuing the state's policy choice not to impose a categorical federal disqualification.

As a result, victims of human trafficking with a drug trafficking conviction would be evaluated for TCA eligibility using the same criteria applied to other applicants, including income, family composition, and work participation. All other individuals who have a felony drug trafficking conviction remain ineligible for TCA benefits.

Section 2 provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

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 identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

³⁸ The City University of New York, CUNY School of Law, *Clearing the Slate: Seeking Effective Remedies for Criminalized Trafficking Victims*, <https://ncjtc-static.fvyc.edu/Resources/RS00002861.pdf> (last visited on 02/03/2026).

B. Private Sector Impact:

The bill has an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on victims of human trafficking previously disqualified from TCA benefits because of felony drug trafficking convictions. These individuals will now be eligible to receive such benefits, assuming they meet all of the other eligibility requirements.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill has an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on state government with a potential increase in TCA expenditures to newly eligible individuals.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 414.095

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 Children, Families, and Elder Affairs on February 3, 2026:

The CS narrows the exemption to the prohibition on TCA benefits for those with a drug trafficking conviction pursuant to s. 893.135, to only those who received such a conviction while recognized by the DCF as being a victim of human trafficking.

B. Amendments:

None.

By Senator Calatayud

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to early childhood education; amending
3 s. 402.302, F.S.; revising the definition of the terms
4 "child care facility" and "child care personnel";
5 defining the term "school-age children"; amending s.
6 402.305, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; revising
7 the minimum standards for child care facility
8 licensing; amending s. 402.3131, F.S.; deleting
9 provisions that require large family child care homes
10 to provide parents of enrolled children information
11 relating to certain viruses and the risks of leaving
12 children in vehicles; amending s. 627.70161, F.S.;
13 changing the term "family day care" to "family child
14 care"; providing legislative intent relating to large
15 family child care homes; defining the term "large
16 family child care home"; prohibiting residential
17 property insurance policies from providing coverage
18 for liability for claims arising out of, or in
19 connection with, the operations of large family child
20 care homes; providing that insurers are under no
21 obligation to defend against lawsuits covering such
22 claims; providing exceptions; prohibiting insurers
23 from denying, cancelling, or refusing to renew a
24 policy for residential property insurance on the basis
25 that the policyholders or applicants operate large
26 family child care homes; providing exceptions;
27 amending s. 1001.24, F.S.; revising the definition of
28 the term "Department of Education direct-support
29 organization"; amending s. 1002.95, F.S.; requiring,

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30 subject to an appropriation, that the administrator of
31 the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)
32 Scholarship Program administer the Center for Early
33 Childhood Professional Recognition for a specified
34 purpose; amending s. 39.101, F.S.; conforming a cross-
35 reference; requiring the Department of Education, the
36 Florida Lottery, and CareerSource Florida, Inc., to
37 examine the creation of a program to provide child
38 care and early learning options for children from
39 certain families; requiring such entities to submit a
40 report to the Governor and the Legislature by a
41 specified date; specifying requirements for the
42 report; providing an effective date.

43
44 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

45
46 Section 1. Present subsections (15) through (18) of section
47 402.302, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (16)
48 through (19), respectively, a new subsection (15) is added to
49 that section, and subsections (2) and (3) of that section are
50 amended, to read:

51 402.302 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

52 (2) "Child care facility" includes any child care center or
53 child care arrangement which provides child care for more than
54 five children unrelated to the operator and which receives a
55 payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care,
56 wherever operated, and whether or not operated for profit. The
57 following are not included:

58 (a) Public schools and nonpublic schools and their

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59 administered ~~integral~~ programs, except as provided in s.
60 402.3025.~~†~~

61 (b) Summer camps having children in full-time residence.~~†~~

62 (c) Summer day camps.~~†~~

63 (d) Bible schools normally conducted during vacation
64 periods.~~†~~ and

65 (e) Operators of transient establishments, as defined in
66 chapter 509, which provide child care services solely for the
67 guests of their establishment or resort, provided that all child
68 care personnel of the establishment are screened according to
69 the level 2 screening requirements of chapter 435.

70 (f) Before- and after-school programs, and any program
71 during off-school hours, offered and operated by public
72 elementary schools at school sites for the schools' student
73 populations.

74 (3) "Child care personnel" means all owners, operators,
75 employees, and volunteers working in a child care facility. The
76 term does not include persons who work in a child care facility
77 after hours when children are not present or parents of children
78 in a child care facility. For purposes of screening, the term
79 includes any member, over the age of 12 years, of a child care
80 facility operator's family, or person, over the age of 12 years,
81 residing with a child care facility operator if the child care
82 facility is located in or adjacent to the home of the operator
83 or if the family member of, or person residing with, the child
84 care facility operator has any direct contact with the children
85 in the facility during its hours of operation. Members of the
86 operator's family or persons residing with the operator who are
87 between the ages of 12 years and 18 years are not required to be

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88 fingerprinted but must be screened for delinquency records. For
89 purposes of screening, the term also includes persons who work
90 in child care programs that provide care for children 15 hours
91 or more each week in public or nonpublic schools, family day
92 care homes, membership organizations under s. 402.301, or
93 programs otherwise exempted under s. 402.316. The term does not
94 include public or nonpublic school personnel who are providing
95 care during regular school hours, or after hours for activities
96 related to a school's program for students attending public or
97 nonpublic school programs ~~grades kindergarten through 12~~. A
98 volunteer who assists on an intermittent basis for less than 10
99 hours per month is not included in the term "personnel" for the
100 purposes of screening and training if a person who meets the
101 screening requirement of s. 402.305(2) is always present and has
102 the volunteer in his or her line of sight. Students who observe
103 and participate in a child care facility as a part of their
104 required coursework are not considered child care personnel,
105 provided such observation and participation are on an
106 intermittent basis and a person who meets the screening
107 requirement of s. 402.305(2) is always present and has the
108 student in his or her line of sight.

109 (15) "School-age children" means children who are:

110 (a) In kindergarten through grade 12;

111 (b) Three-year-olds in a public school exceptional student
112 education program; or

113 (c) Four-year-olds in a public school child care program.

114 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) and paragraph
115 (a) of subsection (7) of section 402.305, Florida Statutes, are
116 amended to read:

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117 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

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

120 (a) Good moral character based upon screening as defined in
121 s. 402.302 ~~s. 402.302(15)~~. This screening shall be conducted as
122 provided in chapter 435, using the level 2 standards for
123 screening provided in that chapter, and include employment
124 history checks, a search of criminal history records, sexual
125 predator and sexual offender registries, and child abuse and
126 neglect registry of any state in which the current or
127 prospective child care personnel resided during the preceding 5
128 years. The department shall complete the screening and provide
129 the results to the child care facility within 3 business days
130 from the receipt of the criminal history record check. If the
131 department is unable to complete the screening within 3 business
132 days, the department shall issue the current or prospective
133 child care personnel a 45-day provisional-hire status while all
134 required information is being requested and the department is
135 awaiting results unless the department has reason to believe a
136 disqualifying factor may exist. During the 45-day period, the
137 current or prospective child care personnel must be under the
138 direct supervision of a screened and trained staff member when
139 in contact with children.

140

141 The department may grant limited exemptions to the minimum
142 standards provided in this subsection which authorize a person
143 to work in a specified role or with a specified population.

144 (7) SANITATION AND SAFETY.—

145 (a) Minimum standards must include requirements for

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146 sanitary and safety conditions, first aid treatment, emergency
147 procedures, and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The
148 minimum standards must require that ~~at least~~ one staff person
149 trained in person in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, as evidenced
150 by current documentation of course completion, be present at all
151 times that children are present.

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

154 402.3131 Large family child care homes.-

155 ~~(9) During the months of August and September of each year,~~
156 ~~each large family child care home shall provide parents of~~
157 ~~children enrolled in the home detailed information regarding the~~
158 ~~causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus in an~~
159 ~~effort to educate those parents regarding the importance of~~
160 ~~immunizing their children against influenza as recommended by~~
161 ~~the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers~~
162 ~~for Disease Control and Prevention.~~

163 ~~(10) During the months of April and September of each year,~~
164 ~~at a minimum, each large family child care home shall provide~~
165 ~~parents of children attending the large family child care home~~
166 ~~information regarding the potential for a distracted adult to~~
167 ~~fail to drop off a child at the large family child care home and~~
168 ~~instead leave the child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at~~
169 ~~the adult's destination. The large family child care home shall~~
170 ~~also give parents information about resources with suggestions~~
171 ~~to avoid this occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer~~
172 ~~or brochure with this information that shall be posted to the~~
173 ~~department's website, which large family child care homes may~~
174 ~~choose to reproduce and provide to parents to satisfy the~~

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175 ~~requirements of this subsection.~~

176 Section 4. Section 627.70161, Florida Statutes, is amended
177 to read:

178 627.70161 Family child ~~day~~ care and large family child care
179 insurance.—

180 (1) PURPOSE AND INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that
181 family child ~~day~~ care and large family child care homes fulfill
182 a vital role in providing child care in Florida. It is the
183 intent of the Legislature that residential property insurance
184 coverage should not be canceled, denied, or nonrenewed solely on
185 the basis of the child ~~family day~~ care services at the
186 residence. The Legislature also recognizes that the potential
187 liability of residential property insurers is substantially
188 increased by the rendition of child care services on the
189 premises. The Legislature therefore finds that there is a public
190 need to specify that contractual liabilities that arise in
191 connection with the operation of the family child ~~day~~ care home
192 or the large family child care home are excluded from
193 residential property insurance policies unless they are
194 specifically included in such coverage.

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

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

202 (b) "Family child ~~day~~ care home" means an occupied
203 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children

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204 from at least two unrelated families and which receives a
 205 payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care,
 206 whether or not operated for a profit.

207 (c) "Large family child care home" means an occupied
 208 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children
 209 from at least two unrelated families; which receives a payment,
 210 fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or
 211 not operated for profit; and which has at least two full-time
 212 child care personnel on the premises during the hours of
 213 operation. One of the two full-time child care personnel must be
 214 the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child
 215 care home must first have operated as a licensed family child
 216 care home for at least 2 years, with an operator who has held a
 217 child development associate credential or its equivalent for at
 218 least 1 year, before seeking licensure as a large family child
 219 care home. Household children under 13 years of age, when on the
 220 premises of the large family child care home or on a field trip
 221 with children enrolled in child care, must be included in the
 222 overall capacity of the licensed home. A large family child care
 223 home may provide care for one of the following groups of
 224 children, which must include any household children under 13
 225 years of age:

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

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

229 (3) FAMILY CHILD DAY CARE AND LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE
 230 HOMES; COVERAGE.—A residential property insurance policy may
 231 ~~shall~~ not provide coverage for liability for claims arising out
 232 of, or in connection with, the operation of a family child day

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233 care home or a large family child care home, and the insurer is
234 not ~~shall be~~ under any ~~no~~ obligation to defend against lawsuits
235 covering such claims, unless:

236 (a) Specifically covered in a policy; or

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

239 (4) DENIAL, CANCELLATION, REFUSAL TO RENEW PROHIBITED.—An
240 insurer may not deny, cancel, or refuse to renew a policy for
241 residential property insurance solely on the basis that the
242 policyholder or applicant operates a family child day care home
243 or a large family child care home. In addition to other lawful
244 reasons for refusing to insure, an insurer may deny, cancel, or
245 refuse to renew a policy of a family child day care home or a
246 large family child care home provider if one or more of the
247 following conditions occur:

248 (a) The policyholder or applicant provides care for more
249 children than authorized ~~for family day care homes~~ by s.
250 402.302;

251 (b) The policyholder or applicant fails to maintain a
252 separate commercial liability policy or an endorsement providing
253 liability coverage for the family child day care home or large
254 family child care home operations;

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

258 (d) Discovery of willful or grossly negligent acts or
259 omissions or any violations of state laws or regulations
260 establishing safety standards for family child day care homes or
261 large family child care homes by the named insured or his or her

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262 representative which materially increase any of the risks
263 insured.

264 Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
265 1001.24, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

266 1001.24 Direct-support organization; use of property; board
267 of directors; audit.—

268 (1) DEFINITIONS.— For the purposes of this section, the
269 term:

270 (a) "Department of Education direct-support organization"
271 means an organization:

272 1. That is a corporation not for profit that is
273 incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved by
274 the Department of State.

275 2. That is organized and operated exclusively to receive,
276 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures
277 to or for the benefit of the early learning programs under parts
278 V and VI of chapter 1002 and public prekindergarten through 12th
279 grade education in this state.

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

283 Section 6. Present subsection (2) of section 1002.95,
284 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (3), and a new
285 subsection (2) is added to that section, to read:

286 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)
287 Scholarship Program.—

288 (2) Subject to an appropriation, the administrator of the
289 TEACH Scholarship Program shall also administer the Center for
290 Early Childhood Professional Recognition to ensure alignment of

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291 training statewide to include, but not be limited to, a system
292 of training approval, a system of trainer approval, and
293 implementation of competency-based assessments aligned with the
294 early learning professional development standards and career
295 pathways under s. 1002.995.

296 Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
297 39.101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

298 39.101 Central abuse hotline.—The central abuse hotline is
299 the first step in the safety assessment and investigation
300 process.

301 (4) USE OF INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CENTRAL ABUSE
302 HOTLINE.—

303 (a) Information received by the central abuse hotline may
304 not be used for employment screening, except as provided in s.
305 39.202(2)(a) and (h) or s. 402.302(16) ~~s. 402.302(15)~~.

306 Section 8. The Department of Education, the Florida
307 Lottery, and CareerSource Florida, Inc., shall jointly examine
308 the creation of a program to provide child care and early
309 learning options for children from families employed in
310 occupations that are in demand. The program shall provide
311 vouchers for child care for children between birth and 4 years
312 of age whose parents or grandparents are employed in occupations
313 on the Statewide Demand Occupations List or the Regional Demand
314 Occupations Lists published annually by the Department of
315 Commerce. No later than January 1, 2027, the Department of
316 Education, the Florida Lottery, and CareerSource Florida, Inc.,
317 shall jointly submit a report to the Governor, the President of
318 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
319 which:

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320 (1) Provides an inventory of existing programs that provide
321 child care for children who are from working families.

322 (2) Evaluates whether the child care voucher should be
323 provided in addition to existing programs or when a child is no
324 longer eligible for such programs.

325 (3) Provides legislative recommendations, including, but
326 not limited to:

327 (a) Eligibility criteria, including criteria for
328 prioritization based on targeted occupations and the duration of
329 the child care voucher.

330 (b) A process to apply for and receive a child care
331 voucher.

332 (c) Sources of available funding based on the estimated
333 costs of the program.

334 (d) Other recommendations that support working families.

335 Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.



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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/03/2026	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
(Calatayud) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause
and insert:

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

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

(3) The department and local licensing agencies, or the



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11 designees thereof, shall be responsible for coordination and
12 dissemination of information on child care to the community and
13 shall make available through electronic means all licensing
14 standards and procedures, health and safety standards for school
15 readiness providers, monitoring and inspection reports, and the
16 names and addresses of ~~licensed~~ child care facilities, school
17 readiness program providers, and, where applicable pursuant to
18 s. 402.313, licensed or registered family child ~~day~~ care homes.
19 This information shall also include the number of deaths,
20 serious injuries, and instances of substantiated child abuse
21 that have occurred in child care settings, including those which
22 are exempt pursuant to s. 402.316(1) or (2), each year; research
23 and best practices in child development; and resources regarding
24 social-emotional development, parent and family engagement,
25 healthy eating, and physical activity.

26 Section 2. Section 402.313, Florida Statutes, is amended to
27 read:

28 402.313 Family child ~~day~~ care homes.—

29 (1) Family child ~~day~~ care homes shall be licensed under
30 this act if they are presently being licensed under an existing
31 county licensing ordinance or if the board of county
32 commissioners passes a resolution that family child ~~day~~ care
33 homes be licensed.

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

- 37 1. The name and address of the home.
- 38 2. The name of the operator.
- 39 3. The number of children served.



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

44 5. Proof of screening and background checks.

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

48 a. State and local rules and regulations that govern child
49 care.

50 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

51 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

52 d. Child development, including typical and atypical
53 language development; and cognitive, motor, social, and self-
54 help skills development.

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

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

62 7. Proof that immunization records are kept current.

63 8. Proof of completion of the required continuing education
64 units or clock hours.

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

67 (c) The department may provide technical assistance to
68 counties and family child day care home providers to enable



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69 counties and family child ~~day~~ care providers to achieve
70 compliance with family child ~~day~~ care homes standards.

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

74 (3) Child care personnel in family child ~~day~~ care homes
75 shall be subject to the applicable screening provisions
76 contained in ss. 402.305(2) and 402.3055. For purposes of
77 screening in family child ~~day~~ care homes, the term includes any
78 member over the age of 12 years of a family child ~~day~~ care home
79 operator's family, or persons over the age of 12 years residing
80 with the operator in the family child ~~day~~ care home. Members of
81 the operator's family, or persons residing with the operator,
82 who are between the ages of 12 years and 18 years shall not be
83 required to be fingerprinted, but shall be screened for
84 delinquency records.

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

89 (5) In order to further develop their child care skills
90 and, if appropriate, their administrative skills, operators of
91 family child ~~day~~ care homes shall be required to complete an
92 additional 1 continuing education unit of approved training or
93 10 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the
94 department, annually.

95 (6) Operators of family child ~~day~~ care homes shall be
96 required to complete 0.5 continuing education unit of approved
97 training in early literacy and language development of children



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98 from birth to 5 years of age one time. The year that this
99 training is completed, it shall fulfill the 0.5 continuing
100 education unit or 5 clock hours of the annual training required
101 in subsection (5).

102 (7) Operators of family child ~~day~~ care homes shall be
103 required annually to complete a health and safety home
104 inspection self-evaluation checklist developed by the department
105 in conjunction with the statewide resource and referral program.
106 The completed checklist shall be signed by the operator of the
107 family child ~~day~~ care home and provided to parents as
108 certification that basic health and safety standards are being
109 met.

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

112 (9) The department shall prepare a brochure on family child
113 ~~day~~ care for distribution by the department and by local
114 licensing agencies, if appropriate, to family child ~~day~~ care
115 homes for distribution to parents utilizing such child care, and
116 to all interested persons, including physicians and other health
117 professionals; mental health professionals; school teachers or
118 other school personnel; social workers or other professional
119 child care, foster care, residential, or institutional workers;
120 and law enforcement officers. The brochure shall, at a minimum,
121 contain the following information:

122 (a) A brief description of the requirements for family
123 child ~~day~~ care registration, training, and fingerprinting and
124 screening.

125 (b) A listing of those counties that require licensure of
126 family child ~~day~~ care homes. Such counties shall provide an



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127 addendum to the brochure that provides a brief description of
128 the licensure requirements or may provide a brochure in lieu of
129 the one described in this subsection, provided it contains all
130 the required information on licensure and the required
131 information in the subsequent paragraphs.

132 (c) A statement indicating that information about the
133 family child day care home's compliance with applicable state or
134 local requirements can be obtained by telephoning the department
135 office or the office of the local licensing agency, if
136 appropriate, at a telephone number or numbers which shall be
137 affixed to the brochure.

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

142 (e) Any other information relating to competent child care
143 that the department or local licensing agency, if preparing a
144 separate brochure, deems would be helpful to parents and other
145 caretakers in their selection of a family child day care home.

146 (10) On an annual basis, the department shall evaluate the
147 registration and licensure system for family child day care
148 homes. Such evaluation shall, at a minimum, address the
149 following:

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

152 (b) The number of children being served in both registered
153 and licensed family child day care homes and any available slots
154 in such homes.

155 (c) The number of complaints received concerning family



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156 child day care, the nature of the complaints, and the resolution
157 of such complaints.

158 (d) The training activities utilized by child care
159 personnel in family child day care homes for meeting the state
160 or local training requirements.

161
162 The evaluation shall be utilized by the department in any
163 administrative modifications or adjustments to be made in the
164 registration of family child day care homes or in any
165 legislative requests for modifications to the system of
166 registration or to other requirements for family child day care
167 homes.

168 (11) In order to inform the public of the state requirement
169 for registration of family child day care homes as well as the
170 other requirements for such homes to legally operate in the
171 state, the department shall institute a media campaign to
172 accomplish this end. Such a campaign shall include, at a
173 minimum, flyers, newspaper advertisements, radio advertisements,
174 and television advertisements.

175 (12) Notwithstanding any other state or local law or
176 ordinance, any family child day care home licensed pursuant to
177 this chapter or pursuant to a county ordinance shall be charged
178 the utility rates accorded to a residential home. A licensed
179 family child day care home may not be charged commercial utility
180 rates.

181 (13) The department shall, by rule, establish minimum
182 standards for family child day care homes that are required to
183 be licensed by county licensing ordinance or county licensing
184 resolution or that voluntarily choose to be licensed. The



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185 standards should include requirements for staffing, training,
186 maintenance of immunization records, minimum health and safety
187 standards, reduced standards for the regulation of child care
188 during evening hours by municipalities and counties, and
189 enforcement of standards.

190 ~~(14) During the months of August and September of each~~
191 ~~year, each family day care home shall provide parents of~~
192 ~~children enrolled in the home detailed information regarding the~~
193 ~~causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus in an~~
194 ~~effort to educate those parents regarding the importance of~~
195 ~~immunizing their children against influenza as recommended by~~
196 ~~the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers~~
197 ~~for Disease Control and Prevention.~~

198 ~~(15) During the months of April and September of each year,~~
199 ~~at a minimum, each family day care home shall provide parents of~~
200 ~~children attending the family day care home information~~
201 ~~regarding the potential for a distracted adult to fail to drop~~
202 ~~off a child at the family day care home and instead leave the~~
203 ~~child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at the adult's~~
204 ~~destination. The family day care home shall also give parents~~
205 ~~information about resources with suggestions to avoid this~~
206 ~~occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer or brochure~~
207 ~~with this information that shall be posted to the department's~~
208 ~~website, which family day care homes may choose to reproduce and~~
209 ~~provide to parents to satisfy the requirements of this~~
210 ~~subsection.~~

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

213 402.3131 Large family child care homes.-



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214 ~~(9) During the months of August and September of each year,~~
215 ~~each large family child care home shall provide parents of~~
216 ~~children enrolled in the home detailed information regarding the~~
217 ~~causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus in an~~
218 ~~effort to educate those parents regarding the importance of~~
219 ~~immunizing their children against influenza as recommended by~~
220 ~~the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers~~
221 ~~for Disease Control and Prevention.~~

222 ~~(10) During the months of April and September of each year,~~
223 ~~at a minimum, each large family child care home shall provide~~
224 ~~parents of children attending the large family child care home~~
225 ~~information regarding the potential for a distracted adult to~~
226 ~~fail to drop off a child at the large family child care home and~~
227 ~~instead leave the child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at~~
228 ~~the adult's destination. The large family child care home shall~~
229 ~~also give parents information about resources with suggestions~~
230 ~~to avoid this occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer~~
231 ~~or brochure with this information that shall be posted to the~~
232 ~~department's website, which large family child care homes may~~
233 ~~choose to reproduce and provide to parents to satisfy the~~
234 ~~requirements of this subsection.~~

235 Section 4. Section 402.316, Florida Statutes, is amended to
236 read:

237 402.316 Exemptions.—

238 (1) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319, except for the
239 requirements regarding screening of child care personnel
240 pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055, do not apply to a child
241 care facility which is an integral part of church or parochial
242 schools, ~~or a child care facility that solely provides child~~



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243 ~~care to eligible children as defined in s. 402.261(1)(c),~~
244 conducting regularly scheduled classes, courses of study, or
245 educational programs accredited by, or by a member of, an
246 organization that ~~which~~ publishes and requires compliance with
247 its standards for health, safety, and sanitation. ~~However,~~ Such
248 facilities must ~~shall~~ meet minimum requirements of the
249 applicable local governing body as to health, sanitation, and
250 safety ~~and shall meet the screening requirements pursuant to ss.~~
251 ~~402.305 and 402.3055.~~ Failure by a facility to comply with ~~such~~
252 screening requirements pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055
253 shall result in the loss of the facility's exemption from
254 licensure.

255 (2) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319, except for the
256 requirements regarding screening of child care personnel
257 pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055, do not apply to a child
258 care facility that solely provides child care to eligible
259 children as defined in s. 402.261(1)(c). Such facilities must
260 meet minimum requirements of the applicable local governing body
261 as to health, sanitation, and safety. Failure by a facility to
262 comply with screening requirements pursuant to ss. 402.305 and
263 402.3055 shall result in the loss of the facility's exemption
264 from licensure.

265 (3) ~~(2)~~ The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319 do not apply
266 to a child care facility or family child day ~~day~~ care home if the
267 child care facility or family child day ~~day~~ care home has a
268 certificate issued by the United States Department of Defense or
269 by the United States Coast Guard to provide child care and has
270 completed background screening by the United States Department
271 of Defense pursuant to 34 U.S.C. s. 20351 and 32 C.F.R. part 86



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272 and received a favorable suitability and fitness determination.
273 If the child care facility or family child day care home elects
274 to serve children ineligible for care under the United States
275 Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02, the child care
276 facility or family child day care home must be licensed under
277 this chapter.

278 (4)(3) Any child care facility covered by the exemption
279 under subsection (1) or subsection (2) which desires to be
280 licensed may submit an application to the department or local
281 licensing agency pursuant to s. 402.308(4).

282 (5)(4) The department and the local licensing agency
283 pursuant to s. 402.308(4) shall adopt rules to administer and
284 implement this section, including, but not limited to, any
285 assessments of previous licensure history.

286 (6) A child care facility exempt under subsection (1) or
287 subsection (2) must include, at a minimum, the following
288 statement on its website, in its promotional materials, and on
289 its facility-created documents and forms provided to families
290 served by the child care facility: "(Child care facility name)
291 is a child care facility operating under an exemption pursuant
292 to the laws of the State of Florida and is not subject to
293 licensure or regulation by the Department of Children and
294 Families."

295 Section 5. Section 627.70161, Florida Statutes, is amended
296 to read:

297 627.70161 Family child day care and large family child care
298 insurance.—

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



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

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

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

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

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



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330 not operated for profit; and which has at least two full-time
331 child care personnel on the premises during the hours of
332 operation. One of the two full-time child care personnel must be
333 the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child
334 care home must first have operated as a licensed family child
335 care home for at least 2 years, with an operator who has held a
336 child development associate credential or its equivalent for at
337 least 1 year, before seeking licensure as a large family child
338 care home. Household children under 13 years of age, when on the
339 premises of the large family child care home or on a field trip
340 with children enrolled in child care, must be included in the
341 overall capacity of the licensed home. A large family child care
342 home may provide care for one of the following groups of
343 children, which must include household children under 13 years
344 of age:

- 345 1. A maximum of 8 children from birth to 24 months of age.
346 2. A maximum of 12 children, with no more than 4 children
347 under 24 months of age.

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

- 355 (a) Specifically covered in a policy; or
356 (b) Covered by a rider or endorsement for business coverage
357 attached to a policy.

358 (4) DENIAL, CANCELLATION, REFUSAL TO RENEW PROHIBITED.—An



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359 insurer may not deny, cancel, or refuse to renew a policy for
360 residential property insurance solely on the basis that the
361 policyholder or applicant operates a family child day care home
362 or a large family child care home. In addition to other lawful
363 reasons for refusing to insure, an insurer may deny, cancel, or
364 refuse to renew a policy of a family child day care home or a
365 large family child care home provider if one or more of the
366 following conditions occur:

367 (a) The policyholder or applicant provides care for more
368 children than authorized ~~for family day care homes~~ by s.
369 402.302;

370 (b) The policyholder or applicant fails to maintain a
371 separate commercial liability policy or an endorsement providing
372 liability coverage for the family child day care home or the
373 large family child care home operations;

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

377 (d) Discovery of willful or grossly negligent acts or
378 omissions or any violations of state laws or regulations
379 establishing safety standards for family child day care homes or
380 large family child care homes by the named insured or his or her
381 representative which materially increase any of the risks
382 insured.

383 Section 6. Section 1001.24, Florida Statutes, is reenacted
384 and amended to read:

385 1001.24 Direct-support organization; use of property; board
386 of directors; audit.—

387 (1) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section, the



388 term:

389 (a) "Department of Education direct-support organization"
390 means an organization:

391 1. That is a corporation not for profit that is
392 incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved by
393 the Department of State.

394 2. That is organized and operated exclusively to receive,
395 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures
396 to or for the benefit of the state's early learning programs for
397 children from birth to 5 years of age and public prekindergarten
398 through 12th grade education in this state.

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

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

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

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

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

413 (c) Shall not permit the use of property, facilities, or
414 personal services of the direct-support organization if such
415 organization does not provide equal employment opportunities to
416 all persons, regardless of race, color, national origin, gender,



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417 age, or religion.

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

422 (4) ANNUAL AUDIT.—Each direct-support organization shall
423 provide for an annual financial audit in accordance with s.
424 215.981. The identity of donors who desire to remain anonymous
425 shall be protected, and that anonymity shall be maintained in
426 the auditor's report. All records of the organization other than
427 the auditor's report, management letter, and any supplemental
428 data requested by the Auditor General and the Office of Program
429 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall be
430 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

431 Section 7. Section 1002.80, Florida Statutes, is created to
432 read:

433 1002.80 Florida Endowment for Early Learning.—

434 (1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Florida
435 Endowment for Early Learning Act."

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

437 (a) "Board" means the board of directors of the Department
438 of Education direct-support organization under s. 1001.24.

439 (b) "Endowment fund" means an account established within
440 the Department of Education direct-support organization for the
441 Division of Early Learning within the department to provide a
442 continuing and growing source of revenue for the state's early
443 learning efforts.

444 (c) "Foundation" means the Department of Education direct-
445 support organization under s. 1001.24.



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446 (d) "Operating account" means an account established under
447 paragraph (4) (c) to carry out the purposes provided in
448 subsection (6).

449 (3) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that
450 access to high-quality early learning experiences prepares
451 children for a lifetime of success by fostering foundational
452 skills in academics, developing executive functioning skills,
453 and supporting cognitive function. This includes better
454 preparation for kindergarten, stronger cognitive and problem-
455 solving abilities, and improved approaches to learning, which
456 all contribute to greater long-term educational attainment and
457 career success. However, there is a critical need for
458 significant additional funding to achieve this goal.
459 Accordingly, the Legislature further finds and declares that:

460 (a) With continued support, this state's youngest residents
461 can have access to high-quality early learning opportunities
462 that reduce the need for significant long-term educational
463 interventions and provide the foundational experiences needed
464 for a child to have success in school and in life.

465 (b) The purpose of this section is to broaden the
466 participation and funding potential for further significant
467 support for access to early-learning opportunities for this
468 state's youngest learners.

469 (c) It is appropriate to encourage individual and corporate
470 support and involvement, as well as state support and
471 involvement, to promote access to early learning programs for
472 this state's youngest residents.

473 (4) REVENUE FOR THE ENDOWMENT FUND.—

474 (a) The Florida Endowment for Early Learning is established



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475 within the Department of Education direct-support organization
476 under s. 1001.24 to create a long-term, stable, and growing
477 source of revenue to be administered, in accordance with rules
478 adopted by the department.

479 (b) The principal of the endowment fund shall derive from
480 any legislative appropriations that may be made to the
481 endowment, and such bequests, gifts, grants, and donations as
482 may be solicited for such purpose by the foundation from public
483 or private sources.

484 (c) The board of directors of the foundation shall
485 establish the operating account and shall deposit therein the
486 moneys transmitted. Moneys in the operating account shall be
487 available to carry out the purposes of subsection (6).

488 (d) Funds received from state sources shall be accounted
489 for separately from bequests, gifts, grants, and donations,
490 which may be solicited for such purposes by the foundation from
491 public or private sources. Earnings on funds received from state
492 sources and funds received from public or private sources shall
493 be accounted for separately.

494 (5) ORGANIZATION, POWERS, AND DUTIES.—Within the limits
495 prescribed in this section or by rule of the department:

496 (a) The board may solicit and receive bequests, gifts,
497 grants, donations, goods, and services. Where gifts are
498 restricted as to purpose, they may be used only for the purpose
499 or purposes stated by the donor. The board may transmit monetary
500 gifts to the State Board of Administration for deposit in the
501 endowment fund principal.

502 (b) The board may enter into contracts with the Federal
503 Government, state or local agencies, early learning coalitions,



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504 private entities, or individuals to carry out the purposes of
505 this section.

506 (c) The board may identify, initiate, and fund new and
507 creative programs to carry out the purposes of this section,
508 utilizing existing organizations, early learning coalitions,
509 associations, and agencies to carry out such early learning
510 programs and purposes wherever possible.

511 (d) The board may make gifts or grants to all of the
512 following:

513 1. The state or any political subdivision thereof, or any
514 public agency of state or local government.

515 2. An early learning coalition for administration of direct
516 services to children identified by the board.

517 3. The division for purposes of program recognition and
518 marketing, public relations, and education.

519 (e) The board may advertise and solicit applications for
520 funding and shall evaluate applications and program proposals
521 submitted thereto. Funding shall be awarded only where the
522 evaluation is positive and the proposal meets both the
523 guidelines for use established in subsection (6) and such
524 evaluation criteria as the department may prescribe by rule.

525 (f) The board shall monitor, review, and annually evaluate
526 funded programs to determine whether funding should be
527 continued, terminated, reduced, or increased.

528 (g) The board shall establish an operating account as
529 provided in paragraph (4) (c).

530 (h) The board may take additional actions, including the
531 hiring of necessary staff, as are deemed necessary and
532 appropriate to administer this section, subject to rules of the



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533 department.

534 (6) DISTRIBUTION OF MONEYS.—The board shall use the moneys
535 in the operating account to provide for:

536 (a) Direct services to children in accordance with an
537 allocation methodology proposed by the Division of Early
538 Learning to an early learning coalition approved by the board.

539 1. A child receiving direct services from an early learning
540 coalition shall choose from providers under a contract with an
541 early learning coalition pursuant to s. 1002.88.

542 2. Unless otherwise specified by the donor, the early
543 learning coalition shall apply a parent copay based on family
544 income pursuant to s. 1002.84(9) or s. 1002.935(2)(b).

545 3. The early learning coalition shall reimburse a provider
546 serving a child using direct service funds from the early
547 learning endowment at the same reimbursement rate allowed
548 pursuant to s. 1002.84(17)(a).

549 4. Each early learning coalition providing direct services
550 must comply with the same administrative requirements under part
551 VI of chapter 1002.

552 (b) Programs designed to support early learning as
553 identified by donors, gifts, or grants.

554

555 Any allocation of funds made for programs pursuant to paragraph
556 (b) or for advertising or consulting is subject to a competitive
557 solicitation process. State funds may not be used to fund events
558 for private sector donors or potential donors or to honor
559 supporters.

560 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Division of Early Learning shall
561 include information in its report of activities pursuant to s.



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562 1002.82(7) summarizing the performance of the endowment fund for
563 the previous fiscal year, summarizing the foundation's
564 fundraising activities and performance, and detailing the
565 activities and programs supported by the endowment principal or
566 earnings on the endowment principal and the activities and
567 programs supported by private sources, bequests, gifts, grants,
568 donations, and other valued goods and services received. The
569 report must also include all of the following:

570 (a) Financial data, by service type, including expenditures
571 for administration and the provision of services by each early
572 learning coalition.

573 (b) The amount of funds spent on administrative expenses
574 and fundraising and the amount of funds raised from private
575 sources.

576 (c) Outcome data, including the number of children served
577 and any child outcomes.

578 (8) RULES.—The department shall adopt rules to implement
579 this section.

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

583 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)
584 Scholarship Program.—

585 (2) Subject to an appropriation, the TEACH Scholarship
586 Program administrator shall also establish and administer the
587 Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition to ensure
588 alignment of training statewide, including, but not limited to,
589 a system of training approval, a system of trainer approval, and
590 implementation of competency-based assessments aligned to the



591 early learning professional development standards and career
592 pathways under s. 1002.995.

593 Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
594 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

595 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of
596 child abuse or neglect; exception.—

597 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), access to such
598 records, excluding the name of, or other identifying information
599 with respect to, the reporter which may only be released as
600 provided in subsection (5), may only be granted to the following
601 persons, officials, and agencies:

602 (a) Employees, authorized agents, or contract providers of
603 the department, the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons
604 with Disabilities, the Agency for Health Care Administration,
605 the Department of Education, or county agencies responsible for
606 carrying out:

- 607 1. Child or adult protective investigations;
- 608 2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;
- 609 3. Early intervention and prevention services;
- 610 4. Healthy Start services;
- 611 5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes,
612 child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapters 393
613 and 394, family child ~~day~~ care homes, providers who receive
614 school readiness funding under part VI of chapter 1002, or other
615 homes used to provide for the care and welfare of children;
- 616 6. Employment screening for caregivers in residential group
617 homes and facilities licensed under chapters 393, 394, and 409;
618 or
- 619 7. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided



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620 by certified domestic violence centers working at the
621 department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.

622

623 Also, employees or agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice
624 responsible for the provision of services to children, pursuant
625 to chapters 984 and 985.

626 Section 10. Section 125.0109, Florida Statutes, is amended
627 to read:

628 125.0109 Family child ~~day~~ care homes; local zoning
629 regulation.—The operation of a residence as a family child ~~day~~
630 care home, as defined by law, registered or licensed with the
631 Department of Children and Families shall constitute a valid
632 residential use for purposes of any local zoning regulations,
633 and no such regulation shall require the owner or operator of
634 such family child ~~day~~ care home to obtain any special exemption
635 or use permit or waiver, or to pay any special fee in excess of
636 \$50, to operate in an area zoned for residential use.

637 Section 11. Section 166.0445, Florida Statutes, is amended
638 to read:

639 166.0445 Family child ~~day~~ care homes; local zoning
640 regulation.—The operation of a residence as a family child ~~day~~
641 care home, as defined by law, registered or licensed with the
642 Department of Children and Families shall constitute a valid
643 residential use for purposes of any local zoning regulations,
644 and no such regulation shall require the owner or operator of
645 such family child ~~day~~ care home to obtain any special exemption
646 or use permit or waiver, or to pay any special fee in excess of
647 \$50, to operate in an area zoned for residential use.

648 Section 12. Paragraph (j) of subsection (7) of section



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649 212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

650 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and
651 storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the
652 rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the
653 storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following
654 are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this
655 chapter.

656 (7) MISCELLANEOUS EXEMPTIONS.—Exemptions provided to any
657 entity by this chapter do not inure to any transaction that is
658 otherwise taxable under this chapter when payment is made by a
659 representative or employee of the entity by any means,
660 including, but not limited to, cash, check, or credit card, even
661 when that representative or employee is subsequently reimbursed
662 by the entity. In addition, exemptions provided to any entity by
663 this subsection do not inure to any transaction that is
664 otherwise taxable under this chapter unless the entity has
665 obtained a sales tax exemption certificate from the department
666 or the entity obtains or provides other documentation as
667 required by the department. Eligible purchases or leases made
668 with such a certificate must be in strict compliance with this
669 subsection and departmental rules, and any person who makes an
670 exempt purchase with a certificate that is not in strict
671 compliance with this subsection and the rules is liable for and
672 shall pay the tax. The department may adopt rules to administer
673 this subsection.

674 (j) *Household fuels*.—Also exempt from payment of the tax
675 imposed by this chapter are sales of utilities to residential
676 households or owners of residential models in this state by
677 utility companies who pay the gross receipts tax imposed under



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678 s. 203.01, and sales of fuel to residential households or owners
679 of residential models, including oil, kerosene, liquefied
680 petroleum gas, coal, wood, and other fuel products used in the
681 household or residential model for the purposes of heating,
682 cooking, lighting, and refrigeration, regardless of whether such
683 sales of utilities and fuels are separately metered and billed
684 direct to the residents or are metered and billed to the
685 landlord. If any part of the utility or fuel is used for a
686 nonexempt purpose, the entire sale is taxable. The landlord
687 shall provide a separate meter for nonexempt utility or fuel
688 consumption. For the purposes of this paragraph, licensed family
689 child day care homes shall also be exempt.

690 Section 13. Subsections (3), (8), (9), and (11) of section
691 402.302, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

692 402.302 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

693 (3) "Child care personnel" means all owners, operators,
694 employees, and volunteers working in a child care facility. The
695 term does not include persons who work in a child care facility
696 after hours when children are not present or parents of children
697 in a child care facility. For purposes of screening, the term
698 includes any member, over the age of 12 years, of a child care
699 facility operator's family, or person, over the age of 12 years,
700 residing with a child care facility operator if the child care
701 facility is located in or adjacent to the home of the operator
702 or if the family member of, or person residing with, the child
703 care facility operator has any direct contact with the children
704 in the facility during its hours of operation. Members of the
705 operator's family or persons residing with the operator who are
706 between the ages of 12 years and 18 years are not required to be



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707 fingerprinted but must be screened for delinquency records. For
708 purposes of screening, the term also includes persons who work
709 in child care programs that provide care for children 15 hours
710 or more each week in public or nonpublic schools, family child
711 ~~day~~ care homes, membership organizations under s. 402.301, or
712 programs otherwise exempted under s. 402.316. The term does not
713 include public or nonpublic school personnel who are providing
714 care during regular school hours, or after hours for activities
715 related to a school's program for grades kindergarten through
716 12. A volunteer who assists on an intermittent basis for less
717 than 10 hours per month is not included in the term "personnel"
718 for the purposes of screening and training if a person who meets
719 the screening requirement of s. 402.305(2) is always present and
720 has the volunteer in his or her line of sight. Students who
721 observe and participate in a child care facility as a part of
722 their required coursework are not considered child care
723 personnel, provided such observation and participation are on an
724 intermittent basis and a person who meets the screening
725 requirement of s. 402.305(2) is always present and has the
726 student in his or her line of sight.

727 (8) "Family child ~~day~~ care home" means an occupied
728 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children
729 from at least two unrelated families and which receives a
730 payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care,
731 whether or not operated for profit. Household children under 13
732 years of age, when on the premises of the family child ~~day~~ care
733 home or on a field trip with children enrolled in child care,
734 shall be included in the overall capacity of the licensed home.
735 A family child ~~day~~ care home shall be allowed to provide care



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736 for one of the following groups of children, which shall include
737 household children under 13 years of age:

738 (a) A maximum of four children from birth to 12 months of
739 age.

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

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

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

747 (9) "Household children" means children who are related by
748 blood, marriage, or legal adoption to, or who are the legal
749 wards of, the family child ~~day~~ care home operator, the large
750 family child care home operator, or an adult household member
751 who permanently or temporarily resides in the home. Supervision
752 of the operator's household children shall be left to the
753 discretion of the operator unless those children receive
754 subsidized child care through the school readiness program
755 pursuant to s. 1002.92 to be in the home.

756 (11) "Large family child care home" means an occupied
757 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children
758 from at least two unrelated families, which receives a payment,
759 fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or
760 not operated for profit, and which has at least two full-time
761 child care personnel on the premises during the hours of
762 operation. One of the two full-time child care personnel must be
763 the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child
764 care home must first have operated as a licensed family child



765 ~~day~~ care home for 2 years, with an operator who has had a child
766 development associate credential or its equivalent for 1 year,
767 before seeking licensure as a large family child care home.
768 Household children under 13 years of age, when on the premises
769 of the large family child care home or on a field trip with
770 children enrolled in child care, shall be included in the
771 overall capacity of the licensed home. A large family child care
772 home shall be allowed to provide care for one of the following
773 groups of children, which shall include household children under
774 13 years of age:

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

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

778 Section 14. Paragraph (a) of subsection (17) of section
779 402.305, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

780 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

781 (17) TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP.—

782 (a) One week prior to the transfer of ownership of a child
783 care facility or family child ~~day~~ care home, the transferor
784 shall notify the parent or caretaker of each child of the
785 impending transfer.

786 Section 15. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) of section
787 402.309, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

788 402.309 Provisional license or registration.—

789 (1) The local licensing agency or the department, whichever
790 is authorized to license child care facilities in a county, may
791 issue a provisional license for child care facilities, family
792 child ~~day~~ care homes, or large family child care homes, or a
793 provisional registration for family child ~~day~~ care homes to



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794 applicants for an initial license or registration or to
795 licensees or registrants seeking a renewal who are unable to
796 meet all the standards provided for in ss. 402.301-402.319.

797 (2) A provisional license or registration may not be issued
798 unless the operator or owner makes adequate provisions for the
799 health and safety of the child. A provisional license may be
800 issued for a child care facility if all of the screening
801 materials have been timely submitted. A provisional license or
802 registration may not be issued unless the child care facility,
803 family child ~~day~~ care home, or large family child care home is
804 in compliance with the requirements for screening of child care
805 personnel in ss. 402.305, 402.3055, 402.313, and 402.3131,
806 respectively.

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

811 (a) Is applying for an initial license or registration for
812 a child care facility, a family child ~~day~~ care home, or a large
813 family child care home;

814 (b) Has made adequate provisions for the health and safety
815 of the child; and

816 (c) Provides evidence that he or she has completed, within
817 the previous 6 months, training pursuant to United States
818 Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02 and background
819 screening by the United States Department of Defense pursuant to
820 34 U.S.C. s. 20351 and 32 C.F.R. part 86 and received a
821 favorable suitability and fitness determination.

822 Section 16. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) and subsection



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823 (4) of section 402.310, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

824 402.310 Disciplinary actions; hearings upon denial,
825 suspension, or revocation of license or registration;
826 administrative fines.—

827 (1)

828 (d) The disciplinary sanctions ~~set forth~~ in this section
829 apply to licensed child care facilities, licensed large family
830 child care homes, and licensed or registered family child ~~day~~
831 care homes.

832 (4) An applicant, registrant, or licensee shall have the
833 right to appeal a decision of the local licensing agency to a
834 representative of the department. Any required hearing shall be
835 held in the county in which the child care facility, family
836 child ~~day~~ care home, or large family child care home is being
837 operated or is to be established. The hearing shall be conducted
838 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 120.

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

841 402.3115 Elimination of duplicative and unnecessary
842 inspections; abbreviated inspections.—

843 (1) The Department of Children and Families and local
844 governmental agencies that license child care facilities shall
845 develop and implement a plan to eliminate duplicative and
846 unnecessary inspections of child care facilities, family child
847 ~~day~~ care homes, and large family child care homes.

848 (2)(a) The department and the local governmental agencies
849 shall develop and implement an abbreviated inspection plan for
850 child care facilities, family child ~~day~~ care homes, and large
851 family child care homes that meet all of the following



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852 conditions:

- 853 1. Have been licensed for at least 2 consecutive years.
854 2. Have not had a Class 1 deficiency, as defined by rule,
855 for at least 2 consecutive years.
856 3. Have not had more than three of the same Class 2
857 deficiencies, as defined by rule, for at least 2 consecutive
858 years.
859 4. Have received at least two full onsite renewal
860 inspections in the most recent 2 years.
861 5. Do not have any current uncorrected violations.
862 6. Do not have any open regulatory complaints or active
863 child protective services investigations.

864 Section 18. Section 402.312, Florida Statutes, is amended
865 to read:

866 402.312 License required; injunctive relief.—

867 (1) The operation of a child care facility without a
868 license, a family child ~~day~~ care home without a license or
869 registration, or a large family child care home without a
870 license is prohibited. If the department or the local licensing
871 agency discovers that a child care facility is being operated
872 without a license, a family child ~~day~~ care home is being
873 operated without a license or registration, or a large family
874 child care home is being operated without a license, the
875 department or local licensing agency is authorized to seek an
876 injunction in the circuit court where the facility is located to
877 enjoin continued operation of such facility, family child ~~day~~
878 care home, or large family child care home. When the court is
879 closed for the transaction of judicial business, the department
880 or local licensing agency is authorized to seek an emergency



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881 injunction to enjoin continued operation of such unlicensed
882 facility, unregistered or unlicensed family child ~~day~~ care home,
883 or unlicensed large family child care home, which injunction
884 shall be continued, modified, or revoked on the next day of
885 judicial business.

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

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

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

895 (c) A child care facility, family child ~~day~~ care home, or
896 large family child care home continues to have children in
897 attendance after the closing date established by the department
898 or the local licensing agency.

899 (3) The department or local licensing agency may impose an
900 administrative fine on any child care facility, family child ~~day~~
901 care home, or large family child care home operating without a
902 license or registration, consistent with ~~the provisions of s.~~
903 402.310.

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

906 402.315 Funding; license fees.—

907 (3) The department shall collect a fee for any license it
908 issues for a child care facility, family child ~~day~~ care home, or
909 large family child care home pursuant to ss. 402.305, 402.313,



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910 and 402.3131.

911 (a) For a child care facility licensed pursuant to s.
912 402.305, such fee shall be \$1 per child, based on the licensed
913 capacity of the facility, except that the minimum fee shall be
914 \$25 per facility and the maximum fee shall be \$100 per facility.

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

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

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

921 Section 20. Subsection (2) of section 402.316, Florida
922 Statutes, is amended to read:

923 402.316 Exemptions.—

924 (2) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319 do not apply to a
925 child care facility or family child day care home if the child
926 care facility or family child day care home has a certificate
927 issued by the United States Department of Defense or by the
928 United States Coast Guard to provide child care and has
929 completed background screening by the United States Department
930 of Defense pursuant to 34 U.S.C. s. 20351 and 32 C.F.R. part 86
931 and received a favorable suitability and fitness determination.
932 If the child care facility or family child day care home elects
933 to serve children ineligible for care under the United States
934 Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02, the child care
935 facility or family child day care home must be licensed under
936 this chapter.

937 Section 21. Section 402.318, Florida Statutes, is amended
938 to read:



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939 402.318 Advertisement.—A person, as defined in s. 1.01(3),
940 may not advertise a child care facility, family child ~~day~~ care
941 home, or large family child care home without including within
942 such advertisement the state or local agency license number or
943 registration number of such facility or home. Violation of this
944 section is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as
945 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

946 Section 22. Section 402.319, Florida Statutes, is amended
947 to read:

948 402.319 Penalties.—

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

952 (a) Fail, by false statement, misrepresentation,
953 impersonation, or other fraudulent means, to disclose in any
954 application for voluntary or paid employment or licensure
955 regulated under ss. 402.301-402.318 all information required
956 under those sections or a material fact used in making a
957 determination as to such person's qualifications to be child
958 care personnel, as defined in s. 402.302, in a child care
959 facility, family child ~~day~~ care home, or other child care
960 program.

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

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

966 (d) Operate or attempt to operate a child care facility or
967 family child ~~day~~ care home under a license that is suspended,



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968 revoked, or terminated.

969 (e) Misrepresent, by act or omission, a child care facility
970 or family child day care home to be duly licensed pursuant to
971 this act without being so licensed.

972 (f) Make any other misrepresentation, by act or omission,
973 regarding the licensure or operation of a child care facility or
974 family child day care home to a parent or guardian who has a
975 child placed in the facility or is inquiring as to placing a
976 child in the facility, or to a representative of the licensing
977 authority, or to a representative of a law enforcement agency,
978 including, but not limited to, any misrepresentation as to:

979 1. The number of children at the child care facility or the
980 family child day care home;

981 2. The part of the child care facility or family child day
982 care home designated for child care;

983 3. The qualifications or credentials of child care
984 personnel;

985 4. Whether a family child day care home or child care
986 facility complies with the screening requirements of s. 402.305;
987 or

988 5. Whether child care personnel have the training as
989 required by s. 402.305.

990 (2) If any child care personnel makes any misrepresentation
991 in violation of this section to a parent or guardian who has
992 placed a child in the child care facility or family child day
993 care home, and the parent or guardian relied upon the
994 misrepresentation, and the child suffers great bodily harm,
995 permanent disfigurement, permanent disability, or death as a
996 result of an intentional act or negligence by the child care



997 personnel, then the child care personnel commits a felony of the
998 second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083,
999 or s. 775.084.

1000 (3) Each child care facility, family child ~~day~~ care home,
1001 and large family child care home shall annually submit an
1002 affidavit of compliance with s. 39.201.

1003 Section 23. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
1004 409.988, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1005 409.988 Community-based care lead agency duties; general
1006 provisions.—

1007 (2) LICENSURE.—

1008 (c) Substitute care providers who are licensed under s.
1009 409.175 and who have contracted with a lead agency are also
1010 authorized to provide registered or licensed family child ~~day~~
1011 care under s. 402.313 if such care is consistent with federal
1012 law and if the home has met the requirements of s. 402.313.

1013 Section 24. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section
1014 411.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1015 411.203 Continuum of comprehensive services.—The Department
1016 of Education and the Department of Health shall utilize the
1017 continuum of prevention and early assistance services for high-
1018 risk pregnant women and for high-risk and handicapped children
1019 and their families, as outlined in this section, as a basis for
1020 the intraagency and interagency program coordination,
1021 monitoring, and analysis required in this chapter. The continuum
1022 shall be the guide for the comprehensive statewide approach for
1023 services for high-risk pregnant women and for high-risk and
1024 handicapped children and their families, and may be expanded or
1025 reduced as necessary for the enhancement of those services.



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1026 Expansion or reduction of the continuum shall be determined by
1027 intraagency or interagency findings and agreement, whichever is
1028 applicable. Implementation of the continuum shall be based upon
1029 applicable eligibility criteria, availability of resources, and
1030 interagency prioritization when programs impact both agencies,
1031 or upon single agency prioritization when programs impact only
1032 one agency. The continuum shall include, but not be limited to:

1033 (8) SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ALL EXPECTANT PARENTS AND PARENTS
1034 OF HIGH-RISK CHILDREN.—

1035 (b) Child care and early childhood programs, including, but
1036 not limited to, licensed child care facilities, family child day ~~day~~
1037 care homes, therapeutic child care, Head Start, and preschool
1038 programs in public and private schools.

1039 Section 25. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
1040 1002.55, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1041 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
1042 private prekindergarten providers.—

1043 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,
1044 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the
1045 following requirements:

1046 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child
1047 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family child day ~~day~~ care
1048 home licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home
1049 licensed under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from
1050 licensure under s. 402.3025(2), faith-based child care provider
1051 exempt from licensure under s. 402.316, child development
1052 program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and
1053 operates on a military installation that is certified by the
1054 United States Department of Defense, or private prekindergarten



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1055 provider that has been issued a provisional license under s.
1056 402.309. A private prekindergarten provider may not deliver the
1057 program while holding a probation-status license under s.
1058 402.310.

1059 Section 26. Paragraph (u) of subsection (2) of section
1060 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1061 1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

1062 (2) The department shall:

1063 (u) Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to provide
1064 assistance and consultation to child care facilities and family
1065 child day care homes regarding health, developmental,
1066 disability, and special needs issues of the children they are
1067 serving, particularly children with disabilities and other
1068 special needs. The department shall:

1069 1. Annually inform child care facilities and family child
1070 day care homes of the availability of this service through the
1071 child care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

1072 2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line to
1073 maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning coalition
1074 service area.

1075 Section 27. Paragraph (j) of subsection (4) of section
1076 1002.83, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1077 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

1078 (4) Each early learning coalition must include the
1079 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,
1080 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple
1081 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be
1082 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has
1083 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of



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1084 such members may serve as a voting member:

1085 (j) A representative of private for-profit child care
1086 providers, including private for-profit family child ~~day~~ care
1087 homes.

1088 Section 28. Subsection (4) of section 1002.84, Florida
1089 Statutes, is amended to read:

1090 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers
1091 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

1092 (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the
1093 department pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u). Regional Warm-Line
1094 staff shall provide onsite technical assistance, when requested,
1095 to assist child care facilities and family child ~~day~~ care homes
1096 with inquiries relating to the strategies, curriculum, and
1097 environmental adaptations the child care facilities and family
1098 child ~~day~~ care homes may need as they serve children with
1099 disabilities and other special needs.

1100 Section 29. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1) of
1101 section 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1102 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards;
1103 eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

1104 (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness program,
1105 a school readiness program provider must:

1106 (a) Be a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, a
1107 family child ~~day~~ care home licensed or registered under s.
1108 402.313, a large family child care home licensed under s.
1109 402.3131, a public school or nonpublic school exempt from
1110 licensure under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care provider
1111 exempt from licensure under s. 402.316, a before-school or
1112 after-school program described in s. 402.305(1)(c), a child



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1113 development program that is accredited by a national accrediting
1114 body and operates on a military installation that is certified
1115 by the United States Department of Defense, an informal child
1116 care provider to the extent authorized in the state's Child Care
1117 and Development Fund Plan as approved by the United States
1118 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s.
1119 98.18, or a provider who has been issued a provisional license
1120 pursuant to s. 402.309. A provider may not deliver the program
1121 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

1122 (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and
1123 facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate
1124 immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness
1125 program.

1126 1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s.
1127 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as
1128 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

1129 2. For a provider that is a registered family child day
1130 care home or is not subject to licensure or registration by the
1131 Department of Children and Families, compliance with this
1132 subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this
1133 requirement. Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the
1134 provider shall annually post the health and safety checklist
1135 adopted by the department prominently on its premises in plain
1136 sight for visitors and parents and shall annually submit the
1137 checklist to its local early learning coalition.

1138 3. For a child development program that is accredited by a
1139 national accrediting body and operates on a military
1140 installation that is certified by the United States Department
1141 of Defense, the submission and verification of annual



1142 inspections pursuant to United States Department of Defense
1143 Instructions 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

1144 Section 30. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
1145 1002.895, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1146 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness program
1147 market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

1148 (2) The market rate schedule must differentiate rates by
1149 provider type, including, but not limited to:

1150 (c) Family child ~~day~~ care homes licensed or registered
1151 under s. 402.313.

1152 Section 31. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and subsection
1153 (4) of section 1002.92, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1154 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and
1155 referral.—

1156 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall provide
1157 the following services:

1158 (a) Identification of existing public and private child
1159 care and early childhood education services, including child
1160 care services by public and private employers, and the
1161 development of an early learning provider performance profile of
1162 those services through the single statewide information system
1163 developed by the department under s. 1002.82(2)(q). These
1164 services may include family child ~~day~~ care, public and private
1165 child care programs, the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1166 Program, Head Start, the school readiness program, special
1167 education programs for prekindergarten children with
1168 disabilities, services for children with developmental
1169 disabilities, full-time and part-time programs, before-school
1170 and after-school programs, and vacation care programs. The early



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1171 learning provider performance profile shall include, but not be
1172 limited to:

- 1173 1. Type of program.
- 1174 2. Hours of service.
- 1175 3. Ages of children served.
- 1176 4. Number of children served.
- 1177 5. Program information.
- 1178 6. Fees and eligibility for services.
- 1179 7. Availability of transportation.
- 1180 8. Participation in the Child Care Food Program, if
1181 applicable.
- 1182 9. A link to licensing inspection reports, if applicable.
- 1183 10. The components of the Voluntary Prekindergarten
1184 Education Program performance metric calculated under s. 1002.68
1185 which must consist of the program assessment composite score,
1186 learning gains score, achievement score, and its designations,
1187 if applicable.
- 1188 11. The school readiness program assessment composite score
1189 and program assessment care level composite score results
1190 delineated by infant classrooms, toddler classrooms, and
1191 preschool classrooms results under s. 1002.82, if applicable.
- 1192 12. Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945,
1193 if applicable.
- 1194 13. Indication of whether the provider implements a
1195 curriculum approved by the department and the name of the
1196 curriculum, if applicable.
- 1197 14. Participation in school readiness child assessment
1198 under s. 1002.82.
- 1199 (4) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 and



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1200 licensed and registered family child ~~day~~ care homes must provide
1201 the statewide child care and resource and referral network with
1202 the following information annually:

- 1203 (a) Type of program.
- 1204 (b) Hours of service.
- 1205 (c) Ages of children served.
- 1206 (d) Fees and eligibility for services.

1207 Section 32. Subsection (2) of section 1002.93, Florida
1208 Statutes, is amended to read:

1209 1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.—

1210 (2) The transportation servicers may only provide
1211 transportation to each child participating in the school
1212 readiness program to the extent that such transportation is
1213 necessary to provide child care opportunities that otherwise
1214 would not be available to a child whose home is more than a
1215 reasonable walking distance from the nearest child care facility
1216 or family child ~~day~~ care home.

1217 Section 33. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1), paragraphs (a)
1218 and (c) of subsection (3), and subsection (4) of section
1219 1002.945, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1220 1002.945 Gold Seal Quality Care Program.—

1221 (1)

1222 (b) A child care facility, large family child care home, or
1223 family child ~~day~~ care home that is accredited by an accrediting
1224 association approved by the Department of Education under
1225 subsection (3) and meets all other requirements shall, upon
1226 application to the department, receive a separate "Gold Seal
1227 Quality Care" designation.

1228 (3) (a) In order to be approved by the Department of



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1229 Education for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care
1230 Program, an accrediting association must apply to the department
1231 and demonstrate that it:

- 1232 1. Is a recognized accrediting association.
- 1233 2. Has accrediting standards that substantially meet or
1234 exceed the Gold Seal Quality Care standards adopted by the state
1235 board under subsection (2).
- 1236 3. Is a registered corporation with the Department of
1237 State.
- 1238 4. Can provide evidence that the process for accreditation
1239 has, at a minimum, all of the following components:
 - 1240 a. Clearly defined prerequisites that a child care provider
1241 must meet before beginning the accreditation process. However,
1242 accreditation may not be granted to a child care facility, large
1243 family child care home, or family child ~~day~~ care home before the
1244 site is operational and is attended by children.
 - 1245 b. Procedures for completion of a self-study and
1246 comprehensive onsite verification process for each classroom
1247 that documents compliance with accrediting standards.
 - 1248 c. A training process for accreditation verifiers to ensure
1249 inter-rater reliability.
 - 1250 d. Ongoing compliance procedures that include requiring
1251 each accredited child care facility, large family child care
1252 home, and family child ~~day~~ care home to file an annual report
1253 with the accrediting association and risk-based, onsite auditing
1254 protocols for accredited child care facilities, large family
1255 child care homes, and family child ~~day~~ care homes.
 - 1256 e. Procedures for the revocation of accreditation due to
1257 failure to maintain accrediting standards as evidenced by sub-



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1258 subparagraph d. or any other relevant information received by
1259 the accrediting association.

1260 f. Accreditation renewal procedures that include an onsite
1261 verification occurring at least every 5 years.

1262 g. A process for verifying continued accreditation
1263 compliance in the event of a transfer of ownership of
1264 facilities.

1265 h. A process to communicate issues that arise during the
1266 accreditation period with governmental entities that have a
1267 vested interest in the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, including
1268 the Department of Education, the Department of Children and
1269 Families, the Department of Health, local licensing entities if
1270 applicable, and the early learning coalition.

1271 (c) If an accrediting association has granted accreditation
1272 to a child care facility, large family child care home, or
1273 family child ~~day~~ care under fraudulent terms or failed to
1274 conduct onsite verifications, the accrediting association shall
1275 be liable for the repayment of any rate differentials paid under
1276 subsection (6).

1277 (4) In order to obtain and maintain a designation as a Gold
1278 Seal Quality Care provider, a child care facility, large family
1279 child care home, or family child ~~day~~ care home must meet the
1280 following additional criteria:

1281 (a) The child care provider must not have had any class I
1282 violations, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and
1283 Families, within the 2 years preceding its application for
1284 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of
1285 a class I violation shall be grounds for termination of the
1286 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the



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1287 provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.

1288 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or more
1289 of the same class II violations, as defined by rule of the
1290 Department of Children and Families, within the 2 years
1291 preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality
1292 Care provider. Commission of three or more of the same class II
1293 violations within a 2-year period shall be grounds for
1294 termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care
1295 provider until the provider has no class II violations that are
1296 the same for a period of 1 year.

1297 (c) The child care provider must not have been cited for
1298 the same class III violation, as defined by rule of the
1299 Department of Children and Families, three or more times and
1300 failed to correct the violation within 1 year after the date of
1301 each citation, within the 2 years preceding its application for
1302 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of
1303 the same class III violation three or more times and failure to
1304 correct within the required time during a 2-year period may be
1305 grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal
1306 Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III
1307 violations for a period of 1 year.

1308 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the Department of
1309 Education determines through a formal process that a provider
1310 has been in business for at least 5 years and has no other class
1311 I violations recorded, the department may recommend to the state
1312 board that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care
1313 status. The state board's determination regarding such
1314 provider's status is final.

1315 Section 34. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.



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===== 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 child care and early learning services; amending s. 402.306, F.S.; revising the information on child care required to be disseminated electronically to the community; amending ss. 402.313 and 402.3131, F.S.; deleting the requirement that family child care homes and large family child care homes, respectively, provide specified information to parents each year; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 402.316, F.S.; requiring that certain child care facilities exempt from licensure requirements meet certain minimum requirements; providing that failure to meet such minimum requirements results in the loss of the exemption from licensure; requiring child care facilities exempt from licensure requirements to include a specified statement on its website and in its promotional materials and facility-created documents and forms provided to families served by the child care facility; amending s. 627.70161, F.S.; changing the term "family day care home" to "family child care home"; providing legislative findings and intent relating to large family child care homes; defining the term "large family child care home";



1345 prohibiting residential property insurance policies
1346 from providing coverage for liability for claims
1347 arising out of, or in connection with, the operations
1348 of large family child care homes; providing that
1349 insurers are under no obligation to defend against
1350 lawsuits covering such claims; providing exceptions;
1351 prohibiting insurers from denying, cancelling, or
1352 refusing to renew a policy for residential property
1353 insurance on the basis that the policyholders or
1354 applicants operate large family child care homes;
1355 providing exceptions; reenacting and amending s.
1356 1001.24, F.S.; revising the definition of the term
1357 "Department of Education direct-support organization";
1358 creating s. 1002.80, F.S.; providing a short title;
1359 defining terms; providing legislative intent;
1360 establishing the Florida Endowment for Early Learning
1361 Foundation within a Department of Education direct-
1362 support organization for a specified purpose;
1363 requiring that the endowment fund principal derive
1364 from specified sources; requiring the board of
1365 directors to establish and deposit money into the
1366 operating account; requiring such money to be used for
1367 a specified purpose; requiring that funds from state
1368 sources be accounted for separately from public and
1369 private sources; specifying powers and duties of the
1370 board of directors; requiring the board to use the
1371 moneys in the operating account for specified
1372 purposes; providing for early learning provider
1373 selection, copay pricing, reimbursement, and



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1374 administrative requirements; prohibiting state funds
1375 from being spent in certain donors or supporters;
1376 requiring the Division of Early Learning to include
1377 specified information in its annual report of its
1378 activities; requiring the Department of Education to
1379 adopt rules; amending s. 1002.95, F.S.; requiring the
1380 administrator of the Teacher Education and
1381 Compensation Helps Scholarship Program, subject to an
1382 appropriation, to establish and administer the Center
1383 for Early Childhood Professional Recognition for a
1384 specified purpose; amending ss. 39.202, 125.0109,
1385 166.0445, 212.08, 402.302, 402.305, 402.309, 402.310,
1386 402.3115, 402.312, 402.315, 402.316, 402.318, 402.319,
1387 409.988, 411.203, 1002.55, 1002.82, 1002.83, 1002.84,
1388 1002.88, 1002.895, 1002.92, 1002.93, and 1002.945,
1389 F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the
1390 act; providing an effective date.

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 Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

BILL: CS/SB 1690

INTRODUCER: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs and Senator Calatayud

SUBJECT: Early Childhood Education

DATE: February 3, 2026

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Fiore	Tuszynski	CF	Fav/CS
2.			ED	
3.			AP	

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1690 makes several statutory changes relating to early childhood education and child care regulation, and directs initiatives to enhance early childhood education.

In child care regulation, the bill:

- Amends “family *day care* home” to “family *child care* home” throughout Florida Statutes.
- Requires certain information regarding all child care facilities to be disseminated electronically to the community.
- Removes the requirement for family child care homes and large family child care homes to provide parents with information related to flu shots and leaving children in a vehicle unattended.
- Requires child care facilities that are exempt from licensure to include a specified statement regarding their exemption on their website, promotional materials and facility-created documents.
- Prohibits the cancelation, denial, or nonrenewal of residential property insurance solely on the basis that certain child care services are provided at the residence.

In early childhood education, the bill:

- Authorizes the Florida Education Foundation, Inc., to raise and manage funds and property, and to conduct programs for the benefit of the state’s early learning programs for children ages zero to five.

- Establishes the Florida Endowment for Early Learning within the Florida Education Foundation, Inc., to support and promote early learning opportunities.
- Expands the role of the TEACH Scholarship Program administrator to establish and administer the Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition to ensure statewide alignment of training, trainer approval, and competency-based assessments for early learning professionals.

The bill has an anticipated negative fiscal impact of \$114,739 related to the Florida Endowment for Early Learning Foundation.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Child Care Regulation

Florida regulates child care facilities, family day care homes, and large family child care homes under Chapter 402, F.S., which establishes licensure requirements, minimum standards, and enforcement authority for the Department of Children and Families (DCF). “Child care” is 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.¹ If a program meets the statutory definition of child care, it is subject to regulation by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) or a local licensing agency, unless statute specifically excludes or exempts it from regulation.²

The child care licensing program is administered by the DCF and is accountable for the statewide licensure of Florida's child care facilities,³ large family child care homes,⁴ and the licensure or registration of family day care homes.⁵ Licensure standards for child care facilities must address personnel qualifications, health and safety requirements, sanitation, emergency preparedness, and training, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation requirements.⁶ Current law requires child care facilities to have at least one staff person trained in person in cardiopulmonary resuscitation present at all times that children are present.⁷

Family day care homes must be licensed if the home is currently licensed under an existing county licensing ordinance or if the board of county commissioners passes a resolution that family day care homes be licensed. If not subject to licensure, a family day care home must register with the DCF.⁸

¹ Section 402.302(1), F.S.

² Sections 402.301-402.319, F.S.

³ Section 402.305, F.S.

⁴ Section 402.3131, F.S.

⁵ Section 402.313, F.S.

⁶ Section 402.305, F.S.

⁷ Section 402.305(7), F.S.

⁸ *Id.*

Public Access to Child Care Information

Current law requires the DCF and local licensing agencies make available through electronic means all licensing standards and procedures, health and safety standards for school readiness providers, monitoring and inspection reports, and identifying information for licensed child care facilities, school readiness providers, and licensed or registered family day care homes.⁹ In addition, the required information includes annual data on deaths, serious injuries, and substantiated instances of child abuse occurring in child care settings.¹⁰ Because information captured in these reports is specific to *licensed* child care facilities, those which are exempt from licensure are not required to be included in these public reports.

Child Care Licensure Exemptions

A “child care facility” is generally defined as any arrangement providing care for more than five unrelated children for compensation.¹¹ Florida law provides exemptions from licensure requirements for certain child care facilities while preserving minimum health and safety protections.¹² Child care facilities that are an integral part of church or parochial schools and those that are operated by a business for the benefit of its employees are exempt from licensure requirements, but must comply with local health, sanitation, and safety requirements and with state background screening requirements for child care personnel.¹³ In addition, child care facilities and family day care homes that hold a certificate from the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Coast Guard and meet applicable federal background screening standards are exempt from licensure unless they elect to serve children who are ineligible for care under federal military child care rules.¹⁴

Family Day Care Homes and Large Family Child Care Homes

A “family day care home” is an occupied residence in which child care is regularly provided for children from at least two unrelated families and which receive payments, fees, or grants for the children receiving care, whether or not operated for profit.¹⁵ Florida law establishes tiered capacity limits for family day care homes based on the number and ages of children in care.¹⁶

- Up to four children from birth to 12 months of age;
- Up to three children from birth to 12 months of age, plus additional children, for a maximum total of six children;
- Up to six preschool children, provided all children are older than 12 months of age; or
- Up to 10 children, provided that no more than five are preschool age and, of those five preschool children, no more than two are under 12 months of age.

⁹ Section 402.306(3), F.S.

¹⁰ *Id.*; and *see also* Florida Department of Children and Families, *Brochures, Fact Sheets, and Reports*, <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family/child-care/child-care-providers-and-staff/brochures-fact-sheets-and-reports> (last visited on 02/04/2026).

¹¹ Section 402.302(2), F.S.

¹² Section 402.316, F.S.

¹³ Section 402.316(1), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 402.316(2), F.S.

¹⁵ Sections 402.302(8) and 402.313, F.S.

¹⁶ Sections 402.302(8), F.S.

These limits apply to the total number of children present, including the operator's own children under 13 years of age who are on the premises during operating hours.¹⁷ Unlike large family child care homes, family day care homes do not require two full-time child care personnel to always be present.

A "large family child care home" is a residential child care setting that serves more children than a standard family day care home and is subject to enhanced licensure requirements.¹⁸ To qualify as a large family child care home, the residence must have at least two full-time child care personnel present during operating hours, one of whom must be the owner or occupant of the residence.¹⁹ The operator must first have operated as a *licensed* family day care home for two years, with an operator who holds a child development associate credential or its equivalent for 1 year.²⁰ Including the operator's own children under 13 years of age who are on the premises during operating hours, large family child care homes may care for up to eight children from birth to 24 months of age or up to 12 children total, provided no more than four children are under 24 months of age.²¹

Current law requires family day care homes and large family child care homes to provide parents with educational materials regarding influenza immunization and the risks associated with leaving children unattended in vehicles.²²

Insurance Coverage for Child Care Operations

While the Legislature has recognized the importance of family child care homes in meeting child care needs, it has also acknowledged that child care operations increase liability exposure for insurers.²³ As a result, Florida law provides that coverage for liability arising from child care operations are generally excluded from residential property insurance policies unless such coverage is specifically included by endorsement.²⁴ Insurers are prohibited from denying, canceling, or refusing to renew a policy solely because a policyholder operates a family child day care home, subject to statutory exceptions.²⁵ Under current law, the insurance protections for family day care homes do not extend to large family day care homes.

Early Learning Programs and Workforce Support

Direct-Support Organizations

A direct-support organization (DSO) is a non-profit corporation that supports a public entity, such as a university, school district, or state agency, by raising and managing funds, managing property, and conducting programs consistent with the public entity's mission. The Florida Education Foundation, Inc., is a DSO of the Department of Education organized exclusively to

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ Sections 402.302(11) and 402.3131, F.S.

¹⁹ Section 402.302(11), F.S.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.*

²² Section 402.3131(9)-(10), F.S.

²³ Section 627.70161(1), F.S.

²⁴ Section 627.70161(3), F.S.

²⁵ Section 627.70161(4), F.S.

receive, hold, invest, and administer property and make expenditures to or for the benefit of public pre-kindergarten through grade 12 education in Florida.²⁶

Early Learning Programs

Florida also operates early learning and child care assistance programs, such as the School Readiness Program²⁷ and the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program.²⁸ Florida's VPK Program is a free, state-funded educational program designed to prepare four-year-olds for kindergarten and beyond. Each child who resides in Florida who will have attained the age of four years old on or before September 1 of the school year is eligible for the VPK Program during either that school year or the following school year.²⁹ Parents can choose to enroll their child in VPK Programs provided by private child care centers or public schools and school-year or summer programs.³⁰ Florida's School Readiness Program provides subsidies for child care services and early childhood education for children from low-income families; children in protective services who are at risk of abuse, neglect, abandonment, or homelessness; foster children; and children with disabilities.³¹

Teacher Education and Compensation Helps Scholarship Program

The Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) Scholarship Program provides educational scholarships to early learning personnel to improve workforce qualifications and retention.³² The scholarship is available to Florida-resident teachers, directors, and family child care educators who meet specified education, employment, work-hour, and employer sponsorship requirements in licensed or exempt early learning or after-school settings.³³

The program covers tuition and books, provides stipends and completion bonuses, offers counseling and administrative support, and reimburses employers for paid release time provided to participating scholars.³⁴

Early Learning Professional Learning Standards and Career Pathways

In 2019, the Legislature directed the Department of Education to develop statewide early learning training standards and identify career pathways with stackable, competency-based credentials for school readiness and early learning professionals.³⁵ These credentials should align

²⁶ Section 1001.24(1)(a)2., F.S.; and Florida Education Foundation, Inc., *Financial Statements June 30, 2024 and 2023*, at pg. 10, https://flauditor.gov/pages/nonprofit_forprofit%20rpts/2024%20florida%20education%20foundation.pdf (last visited January 29, 2026).

²⁷ Sections 1002.81-1002.995, F.S.

²⁸ Sections 1002.51-1002.79, F.S.

²⁹ Section 1002.53(2), F.S.; see also Florida Department of Education, *What is Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program (VPK)?*, available at <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/early-learning/parents/vpk-parents.stml> (last visited January 29, 2026).

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ Sections 1002.81 and 1002.87, F.S.

³² Section 1002.95, F.S.

³³ Florida Head Start Organization, *T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship Program, Scholarship Models*, available at <https://www.flheadstart.org/assets/docs/TEACH/TEACH%20model%20brochure%20-final%2011-27.pdf>, (last visited January 29, 2026).

³⁴ *Id.*

³⁵ Section 1002.995, F.S.

with established professional standards, improve instructional practice, and support better child outcomes, including kindergarten readiness. The Department of Education is also authorized to provide incentives to qualified early learning and prekindergarten personnel who hold specified reading or literacy credentials, with alignment to K–12 training standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 402.306, F.S., to require the DCF and local licensing agencies to make available through electronic means the health and safety standards for school readiness providers, monitoring and inspection reports, and annual data on child deaths, serious injuries, and substantiated abuse occurring in *all* child care facilities, including those child care facilities that are an integral part of a church or parochial school and those that are run by businesses for the benefit of their employees.

Section 2 amends s. 402.313, F.S., to delete statutory provisions requiring family child care homes to provide parents with informational materials every August and September regarding influenza immunization and every April and September regarding the risks of leaving children unattended in vehicles.

Section 3 amends s. 402.3131, F.S., to delete statutory provisions requiring large family child care homes to provide parents with informational materials every August and September regarding influenza immunization and every April and September regarding the risks of leaving children unattended in vehicles.

Section 4 amends s. 402.316, F.S., to require certain exempt child care facilities, specifically those that are an integral part of a church or parochial school and those that are run by businesses for the benefit of their employees, to include the statement “(child care facility name) is a child care facility operating under an exemption pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida and is not subject to licensure or regulation by the Department of Children and Families” on their websites and, at a minimum, in their promotional literature and facility-created documents and forms provided to families they serve.

Section 5 amends s. 627.70161, F.S., to define “large family child care home” to mean an occupied residence in which child care is regularly provided for children from at least two unrelated families for payment and has at least two full-time child care personnel, one of which must be the owner or occupant of the residence. The definition requires that a large family child care home to have first operated as a licensed family child care home for at least 2 years, by a credentialed operator holding that credential for at least 1 year. The definition requires any children under 13 years of age on the premises or on a field trip with children enrolled in child care to be included in the overall capacity of the licensed home and limits the number of children under 13 years of age a large family child care home may provide care to:

- 8 children from birth to 24 months of age.
- 12 children maximum, with no more than 4 children under 24 months of age.

The bill adds large family child care homes to the current statutory prohibition on residential property insurance policies from providing liability coverage for claims arising from the

operation of these child care homes unless such coverage is specifically covered in a policy or expressly included by rider or endorsement for business coverage attached to a policy. The section also adds large family child care homes to the section of law that provides that insurers are not obligated to defend such claims absent coverage and prohibits insurers from denying, canceling, or refusing to renew residential property insurance policies solely because the insured operates a family or large family child care home, subject to enumerated exceptions.

Section 6 amends s. 1001.24, F.S., to add “state’s early learning programs for children from birth to 5 years of age” to the definition of the Department of Education direct-support organization. This will authorize the Florida Education Foundation, Inc., to receive, hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures to or for the benefit of the state's early learning programs for children birth to five, in addition to what it already provides for PreK-12.

Section 7 creates s. 1002.80, F.S., establishing the Florida Endowment for Early Learning within the Department of Education’s direct-support organization to serve as a long-term, stable funding source for early learning initiatives. It defines key entities and accounts, including the endowment fund, an operating account, the governing board, and the foundation, and states legislative intent to expand access to high-quality early learning through public and private financial support.

The section authorizes the board to receive and manage state appropriations, private donations, grants, and gifts; requires separate accounting for state and nonstate funds; and establishes an operating account to carry out programmatic purposes. It further authorizes distributions for direct services to children through early learning coalitions and for donor-designated early learning programs, requires competitive solicitation for certain expenditures, mandates annual reporting by the Division of Early Learning, and directs the Department of Education to adopt implementing rules

Section 8 amends s. 1002.95, F.S., to provide that, subject to an appropriation, the administrator of the TEACH Scholarship Program shall establish and administer the Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition to ensure statewide alignment of training, trainer approval, and competency-based assessments. There is currently no such professional recognition entity for early childhood professionals designated or recognized in statute.

Sections 1, 2, 3, 5, and 9-33 amend “family *day care* home” to “family *child care* home” to conform to the substantive changes in the bill throughout Florida Statutes.

Section 34 provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

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 identified.

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

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Department of Education will likely require an additional FTE for the Florida Education Foundation's expanded responsibilities relating to early learning. Estimated total cost for the position is likely \$114,739 in the following:

- Salary and benefits: \$87,601;
- Expenses: \$7,392/Recurring, \$6,437/Non-recurring;
- Human Resources: \$356/Recurring; and
- Education Technology: \$12,953.³⁶

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

³⁶ Email from Sarah Moosbrugger, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs for the Department of Education, *RE: Senate Request: SB 1690 Early Childhood Education - Fiscal Impact, 2/5/2026*, on file with the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 402.306, 402.313, 402.3131, 402.316, 627.70161, 1001.24, 1002.95, 39.202, 125.0109, 166.0445, 212.08, 402.302, 402.305, 402.309, 402.310, 402.3115, 402.312, 402.315, 402.316, 402.318, 402.319, 409.988, 411.203, 1002.55, 1002.82, 1002.83, 1002.84, 1002.88, 1002.895, 1002.92, 1002.93, 1002.945

This bill creates the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 1002.80

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 Children, Families, and Elder Affairs on February 3, 2026:**

The CS removes:

- The revisions to certain child care licensure standards;
- The contemplated exemptions relating to certain before-and after-school programs administered by public schools and nonpublic schools; and
- The directive for certain state agencies to examine the creation of a child care and early learning voucher program for children from families employed in high-demand occupations.

The CS maintains:

- The deletion of the requirement for child care homes to provide parents with information related to flu shots and leaving children in a vehicle unattended;
- The prohibition on the cancelation, denial, or nonrenewal of residential property insurance solely on the basis that certain child care services are provided at the residence;
- The authorization for the Florida Education Foundation, Inc., to raise and manage funds and property, and to conduct programs for the benefit of early learning programs and certain child care providers; and
- The expansion of the role of the TEACH Scholarship Program administrator to establish and administer the Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition to ensure statewide alignment of training, trainer approval, and competency-based assessments for early learning professionals.

The CS adds the following:

- Requires the DCF and local licensing agencies to make publicly available certain information for all child care facilities, including those child care facilities that are an integral part of a church or parochial school and those that are run by businesses for the benefit of their employees and also requires certain exempt from licensure child care facilities to include specific notice to consumers that they operate under an exemption from licensure or regulation by the DCF;
- Creates the Florida Endowment for Early Learning within the Department of Education's direct-support organization to serve as a long-term, stable funding source for early learning initiatives. The language; defines key entities and

accounts; authorizes the board to receive and manage state appropriations, private donations, grants, and gifts, requires separate accounting for state and nonstate funds, and establishes an operating account to carry out programmatic purposes; authorizes distributions for direct services to children through early learning coalitions and for donor-designated early learning programs; requires annual reporting by the Division of Early Learning; and directs the DOE to adopt implementing rules; and

- Makes conforming changes throughout statute.

B. Amendments:

None.



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

SENATOR GAYLE HARRELL

31st District

February 3, 2026

Senator Erin Grall
316 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chair Grall,

I respectfully request an excused absence from Children, Family and Elder Affairs Committee on February 3rd, 2026.

I was presenting a bill in Transportation and the Committee ran long.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gayle".

Senator Gayle Harrell
Senate District 31

Cc: Tyler Tuszynski, Staff Director
Nikki Lowery, Committee Administrative Assistant

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations Committee on Higher Education, *Chair*
Health Policy, *Vice Chair*
Appropriations
Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
Education Postsecondary
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JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Budget Commission

REPLY TO:

- 312 SE Denver Avenue, Stuart, Florida 34994 (772) 221-4019 FAX: (888) 263-7895
- 404 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5031

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

BEN ALBRITTON
President of the Senate

JASON BRODEUR
President Pro Tempore

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 301
Caption: Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee

Case No.:

Type:
Judge:

Started: 2/3/2026 1:00:03 PM
Ends: 2/3/2026 1:20:17 PM **Length:** 00:20:14

1:00:06 PM Chair Grall calls the meeting to order
1:00:08 PM Roll call
1:00:24 PM Chair Grall makes opening remarks
1:00:48 PM Tab 4; SB 1690 by Senator Calatayud; Early Childhood Education
1:00:55 PM Amendment #109638
1:01:11 PM Senator Calatayud explains the amendment
1:02:23 PM Senator Calatayud waives close on the amendment
1:02:30 PM Back on the bill as amended
1:02:45 PM Senator Calatayud waives close on the bill
1:02:49 PM Chair Grall recognizes public testimony
1:02:52 PM Roll call
1:03:08 PM Tab 2; SB 1022 by Senator Polsky; Children's Initiatives
1:03:14 PM Senator Polsky explains the bill
1:04:24 PM Chair Grall recognizes public testimony
1:04:37 PM Senator Polsky waives close on the bill
1:04:39 PM Roll call
1:05:03 PM Tab 1; SB 996 by Senator Rodriguez; Dependent Children
1:05:13 PM Senator Rodriguez explains the bill
1:05:52 PM Chair Grall recognizes public testimony
1:05:54 PM Speaking:
1:05:58 PM Katie Matthews
1:07:51 PM Serenity Miller
1:09:41 PM Nicole Williams
1:12:29 PM Mikayla Delarue
1:15:02 PM Debate:
1:15:11 PM Senator Sharief
1:15:47 PM Senator Rodriguez makes closing remarks and waives close on the bill
1:16:02 PM Roll call
1:16:31 PM Tab 3; SB 1462 by Senator Bracy Davis; Temporary Cash Assistance Eligibility
1:16:44 PM Amendment #191014
1:16:55 PM Senator Bracy Davis explains the amendment
1:18:13 PM Senator Bracy Davis waives close on the amendment
1:18:17 PM Back on the bill as amended
1:18:25 PM Chair Grall recognizes public testimony
1:19:18 PM Senator Bracy Davis makes closing remarks and waives close on the bill
1:19:36 PM Roll call
1:20:08 PM Senator Simon moves for the meeting to be adjourned
1:20:11 PM Meeting adjourned