A bill to be entitled

An act relating to licensure of child of

An act relating to licensure of child care programs; amending s. 402.301; requiring certain organizations providing after-school child care programs to be licensed as child care facilities; amending s. 402.302; defining the term "after-school program"; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending ss. 39.201, 402.317, 435.07, 1002.82, and 1002.88, F.S.; conforming cross-references; an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Subsection (6) of section 402.301, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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402.301 Child care facilities; legislative intent and declaration of purpose and policy.—It is the legislative intent to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the children of the state and to promote their emotional and intellectual development and care. Toward that end:

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(6) It is further the intent that membership organizations affiliated with national organizations which do not provide child care, whose primary purpose is providing activities that contribute to the development of good character or good sportsmanship or to the education or cultural development of

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minors in this state, which charge only a nominal annual membership fee, which are not for profit, and which are certified by their national associations as being in compliance with the association's minimum standards and procedures shall not be considered child care facilities. However, such membership organizations that provide child care, including, but not limited to, child care offered through an after-school program, must be licensed as a child care facility as required under this chapter. Notwithstanding licensure or registration status, all personnel as defined in s. 402.302 of such membership organizations shall meet background screening requirements through the department pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055.

Section 2. Subsections (1) through (18) of section 402.302, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (2) through (19), respectively, and a new subsection (1) is added to that section, to read:

- 402.302 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:
- (1) "After-school program" means a program that offers child care for school-age children during out-of-school times, including, but not limited to, before school or after school.

  The term does not include:
- (a) A program on a school site that is operated by the school or through a formal agreement between the school and a provider to serve children who attend that school.

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(b) A program that is solely instructional or tutorial.

(c) An open-access program.

(d) A program that does not hold a Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 402.281 that provides child care exclusively for children in grades 6 through 12.

Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 402.305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

- 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.-
- (1) LICENSING STANDARDS.—The department shall establish licensing standards that each licensed child care facility must meet regardless of the origin or source of the fees used to operate the facility or the type of children served by the facility.
- (c) The minimum standards for child care facilities shall be adopted in the rules of the department and shall address the areas delineated in this section.
- 1. The department, in adopting rules to establish minimum standards for child care facilities, shall recognize that different age groups of children may require different standards. The department may adopt different minimum standards for facilities that serve children in different age groups, including school-age children. The department shall also adopt by rule a definition for child care which distinguishes between child care programs that require child care licensure and afterschool programs that do not require licensure.

2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, minimum child care licensing standards shall be developed to provide for reasonable, affordable, and safe before-school and after-school care.

- 3. After-school Programs that otherwise meet the criteria for exclusion from child care licensure as an after-school program may provide snacks and meals through the federal Afterschool Meal Program (AMP) administered by the Department of Health in accordance with federal regulations and standards. The Department of Health shall consider meals to be provided through the AMP only if the program is actively participating in the AMP, is in good standing with the department, and the meals meet AMP requirements.
- $\underline{4.}$  Standards, at a minimum, shall allow for a credentialed director to supervise multiple before-school and after-school program sites.
- Section 4. Subsection (6) of section 39.201, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 39.201 Mandatory reports of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect; mandatory reports of death; central abuse hotline.—
- (6) Information in the central abuse hotline may not be used for employment screening, except as provided in s. 39.202(2) (a) and (h) or  $\underline{s. 402.302(16)}$   $\underline{s. 402.302(15)}$ . Information in the central abuse hotline and the department's automated abuse information system may be used by the

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department, its authorized agents or contract providers, the Department of Health, or county agencies as part of the licensure or registration process pursuant to ss. 402.301-402.319 and ss. 409.175-409.176. Pursuant to s. 39.202(2)(q), the information in the central abuse hotline may also be used by the Department of Education for purposes of educator certification discipline and review. Section 5. Section 402.317, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 402.317 Prolonged child care.—Notwithstanding the time restriction specified in s. 402.302(2) s. 402.302(1), child care may be provided for 24 hours or longer for a child whose parent or legal guardian works a shift of 24 hours or more. The requirement that a parent or legal guardian work a shift of 24 hours or more must be certified in writing by the employer, and the written certification shall be maintained in the facility by the child care provider and made available to the licensing agency. The time that a child remains in child care, however, may not exceed 72 consecutive hours in any 7-day period. During a declared state of emergency, the child care licensing agency may temporarily waive the time limitations provided in this

Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section 435.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

435.07 Exemptions from disqualification.—Unless otherwise

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provided by law, the provisions of this section apply to exemptions from disqualification for disqualifying offenses revealed pursuant to background screenings required under this chapter, regardless of whether those disqualifying offenses are listed in this chapter or other laws.

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- (c) Disqualification from employment under this chapter may not be removed from, and an exemption may not be granted to, any current or prospective child care personnel, as defined in s. 402.302(4) s. 402.302(3), and such a person is disqualified from employment as child care personnel, regardless of any previous exemptions from disqualification, if the person has been registered as a sex offender as described in 42 U.S.C. s. 9858f(c)(1)(C) or has been arrested for and is awaiting final disposition of, has been convicted or found guilty of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, or has been adjudicated delinquent and the record has not been sealed or expunged for, any offense prohibited under any of the following provisions of state law or a similar law of another jurisdiction:
- 1. A felony offense prohibited under any of the following statutes:
  - a. Chapter 741, relating to domestic violence.
  - b. Section 782.04, relating to murder.
  - c. Section 782.07, relating to manslaughter, aggravated

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manslaughter of an elderly person or disabled adult, aggravated manslaughter of a child, or aggravated manslaughter of an officer, a firefighter, an emergency medical technician, or a paramedic.

- d. Section 784.021, relating to aggravated assault.
- e. Section 784.045, relating to aggravated battery.
  - f. Section 787.01, relating to kidnapping.

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- g. Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a child.
  - h. Section 787.04(2), relating to leading, taking, enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending custody proceedings.
  - i. Section 787.04(3), relating to leading, taking, enticing, or removing a minor beyond the state limits, or concealing the location of a minor, with criminal intent pending dependency proceedings or proceedings concerning alleged abuse or neglect of a minor.
    - j. Section 794.011, relating to sexual battery.
  - k. Former s. 794.041, relating to sexual activity with or solicitation of a child by a person in familial or custodial authority.
  - 1. Section 794.05, relating to unlawful sexual activity with certain minors.
    - m. Section 794.08, relating to female genital mutilation.

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178	p. Section 827.03, relating to child abuse, aggravated
179	child abuse, or neglect of a child.
180	q. Section 827.04, relating to contributing to the
181	delinquency or dependency of a child.
182	r. Section 827.071, relating to sexual performance by a
183	child.
184	s. Chapter 847, relating to child pornography.
185	t. Section 985.701, relating to sexual misconduct in
186	juvenile justice programs.
187	2. A misdemeanor offense prohibited under any of the

Section 806.01, relating to arson.

Section 826.04, relating to incest.

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following statutes:

- a. Section 784.03, relating to battery, if the victim of the offense was a minor.
- b. Section 787.025, relating to luring or enticing a child.
  - c. Chapter 847, relating to child pornography.
  - 3. A criminal act committed in another state or under federal law which, if committed in this state, constitutes an offense prohibited under any statute listed in subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2.
- Section 7. Paragraph (w) of subsection (2) of section 199 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 200 1002.82 Office of Early Learning; powers and duties.-

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201	(2)	The office shall:
202	(w)	Establish staff-to-children

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- (w) Establish staff-to-children ratios that do not exceed the requirements of  $\underline{s.\ 402.302(9)}$  or  $\underline{(12)}\ \underline{s.\ 402.302(8)}$  or  $\underline{(11)}$  or  $\underline{s.\ 402.305(4)}$ , as applicable, for school readiness program providers.
- Section 8. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 1002.88, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards; eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—
- (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness program, a school readiness program provider must:
- (e) Employ child care personnel, as defined in  $\underline{s}$ .  $\underline{402.302(4)}$  s.  $\underline{402.302(3)}$ , who have satisfied the screening requirements of chapter 402 and fulfilled the training requirements of the office.
- Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

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