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CS/CS/HB 1349

2021 Legislature

1
2 An act relating to assistance programs; amending s.
3 1002.81, F.S.; deleting obsolete language; amending s.
4 1002.87, F.S.; requiring an early learning coalition
5 to give priority for participation in a school
6 readiness program to certain children; requiring the
7 Office of Early Learning within the Department of
8 Education to coordinate with the University of Florida
9 Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood
10 Studies to conduct an analysis of certain assistance
11 programs; providing requirements for the analysis;
12 requiring certain agencies to enter into a data
13 sharing agreement with certain entities and annually
14 provide certain data; requiring the University of
15 Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early
16 Childhood Studies to provide an annual report to the
17 Office of Early Learning; requiring the Office of
18 Early Learning to provide an annual report to the
19 Governor and Legislature; requiring the Department of
20 Children and Families to provide certain assistance;
21 providing for the scheduled expiration of certain
22 provisions; providing an effective date.

23
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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26 Section 1. Subsections (6) and (15) of section 1002.81,
 27 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

28 1002.81 Definitions.—Consistent with the requirements of
 29 45 C.F.R. parts 98 and 99 and as used in this part, the term:

30 ~~(6) "Earned income" means gross remuneration derived from~~
 31 ~~work, professional service, or self-employment. The term~~
 32 ~~includes commissions, bonuses, back pay awards, and the cash~~
 33 ~~value of all remuneration paid in a medium other than cash.~~

34 ~~(15) "Unearned income" means income other than earned~~
 35 ~~income. The term includes, but is not limited to:~~

36 ~~(a) Documented alimony and child support received.~~

37 ~~(b) Social security benefits.~~

38 ~~(c) Supplemental security income benefits.~~

39 ~~(d) Workers' compensation benefits.~~

40 ~~(e) Reemployment assistance or unemployment compensation~~
 41 ~~benefits.~~

42 ~~(f) Veterans' benefits.~~

43 ~~(g) Retirement benefits.~~

44 ~~(h) Temporary cash assistance under chapter 414.~~

45 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
 46 1002.87, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

47 1002.87 School readiness program; eligibility and
 48 enrollment.—

49 (1) Each early learning coalition shall give priority for
 50 participation in the school readiness program as follows:

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51 (a) Priority shall be given first to a child younger than
52 13 years of age from a family that includes a parent who is
53 receiving temporary cash assistance under chapter 414 and
54 subject to the federal work requirements or a parent who has an
55 Intensive Service Account or an Individual Training Account
56 under s. 445.009.

57 Section 3. (1) The Office of Early Learning within the
58 Department of Education shall coordinate with the University of
59 Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood
60 Studies to conduct an analysis of, at a minimum, recipients of
61 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program established under
62 7 U.S.C. ss. 2011 et seq., the temporary cash assistance program
63 under s. 414.095, Florida Statutes, the Medicaid program under
64 s. 409.963, Florida Statutes, the school readiness program under
65 part VI of chapter 1002, Florida Statutes, and the Housing
66 Choice Voucher Program established under 42 U.S.C. s. 1437f.

67 (2) The analysis must include a review of eligibility
68 criteria, the manner in which each program establishes and
69 documents eligibility and disbursement policies, the frequency
70 of eligibility determinations, and the number of families
71 receiving multiple program services out of the total number of
72 eligible families.

73 (3) The University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for
74 Excellence in Early Childhood Studies shall, through its
75 analysis, develop participant profiles based on the number of

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76 | families receiving multiple program services that include family
77 | composition and the most frequent program services or
78 | combination of services families are accessing in each county or
79 | geographic region.

80 | (4) (a) Each agency responsible for the administration of a
81 | program to be analyzed under subsection (1) shall enter into a
82 | data sharing agreement with the Office of Early Learning and the
83 | University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in
84 | Early Childhood Studies by September 1, 2021. Upon execution of
85 | the data sharing agreement, and subject to any federal
86 | requirements, each agency shall submit a program services data
87 | file to the University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for
88 | Excellence in Early Childhood Studies by November 1, 2021,
89 | containing program service data from the preceding 10 federal
90 | fiscal years, if available. By November 1, 2022, and each year
91 | thereafter if applicable, each agency shall submit a
92 | supplemental data file to the University of Florida Anita Zucker
93 | Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies containing
94 | program service data from the preceding federal fiscal year.

95 | (b) The Department of Children and Families shall assist
96 | the University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in
97 | Early Childhood Studies with receiving information required to
98 | be analyzed under subsection (1) that is related to the
99 | department's programs, including, but not limited to, providing
100 | assistance with seeking any required approvals or waivers from

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101 | applicable federal agencies.

102 | (5) The University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for
103 | Excellence in Early Childhood Studies shall provide a report to
104 | the Office of Early Learning based on the results of its
105 | analysis by May 31 of each year.

106 | (6) The Office of Early Learning within 30 days after
107 | receiving the report shall submit it to the Governor, the
108 | President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
109 | Representatives.

110 | (7) This section expires on June 30, 2023, unless reviewed
111 | and reenacted by the Legislature before that date.

112 | Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.