

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	_____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	_____	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	_____	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	_____	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	_____	(Y/N)
OTHER		

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Early Learning &
 2 Elementary Education Subcommittee
 3 Representative Grall offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove lines 21-102 and insert:

Section 1. Section 1002.89, Florida Statutes, is amended
to read:

1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

(1) If the annual allocation for the school readiness
 program to each early learning coalition is not determined in
 the annual appropriations act or the substantive bill
 implementing the annual appropriations act, it shall be
 determined as follows:

(a)~~(1)~~ COMPUTATION OF THE BASIC AMOUNT TO BE INCLUDED FOR
 OPERATION.—The following procedures shall be used in determining

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17 the annual allocation to each early learning coalition for
18 operation of the school readiness program:

19 1. Determination of full-time equivalent population.—The
20 department shall annually request from the Office of Economic
21 and Demographic Research the number of families by each county
22 who have children ages birth to 5 years old whose family income
23 is below 200 percent of the federal poverty level or 85 percent
24 of the state median income, whichever is available. This data
25 shall be used by the Early Learning Programs Estimating
26 Conference pursuant to s. 216.136.

27 2. Determination of care level costs.—Annual cost factors
28 based on the relative cost differences between the following
29 basic care levels shall be established in the General
30 Appropriations Act using data submitted from the department
31 under s. 1002.90:

- 32 a. Infant care.
- 33 b. Toddler care.
- 34 c. Two-year-old care.
- 35 d. Three-year-old care.
- 36 e. Four-year-old care.
- 37 f. Five-year-old care.
- 38 g. School-age care.

39
40 For Pinellas County, the care level cost for an infant shall be
41 based on the infant care level cost of 1.33, the care level cost

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42 for a toddler shall be based on the toddler care level cost of
43 1.20, and the care level cost for a 2 year old shall be based on
44 the 2-year-old care level cost of 1.10. Any county that passes a
45 local ordinance after January 1, 2022, that limits its child
46 care teacher-to-child ratio below the ratio required by s.
47 402.305 shall be responsible for the cost of the child care
48 market impact of that ordinance.

49 3. *Determination of county price level index*
50 *differentials.*—The department shall annually compute for each
51 county a current year's price level index differential. The
52 price level index differential shall be calculated by adding
53 each county's price level index as published in the Florida
54 Price Level Index for the most recent 3 years and dividing the
55 resulting sum by 3.

56 4. *Determination of the basic amount for current*
57 *operation.*—The basic amount for current operation to be included
58 for funding the school readiness program for each county shall
59 be calculated as follows:

60 a. The cost factor for each care level multiplied by 22
61 percent. The product derived from this calculation shall result
62 in the unweighted amount by care level.

63 b. The weighted amount by care level shall be derived by
64 multiplying the Florida Price Level Index differential for each
65 county by the amount calculated pursuant to sub-subparagraph a.

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66 c. The average weighted amount shall be derived by adding
67 the amounts calculated pursuant to sub-subparagraph b. for care
68 levels infant through 5 years old and dividing the resulting sum
69 by 5.

70 d. Each early learning coalition's allocation shall be
71 derived by multiplying the average weighted amount for each
72 county within the coalition by the percentage of the eligible
73 school readiness population established in the General
74 Appropriations Act.

75 (b) GOLD SEAL QUALITY CARE ALLOCATION.—There is created
76 the gold seal quality care allocation. The allocation amount
77 shall be determined annually by the Legislature and shall be the
78 amount prescribed in the General Appropriations Act. Each early
79 learning coalition shall be reimbursed based on actual fiscal
80 year expenditures pursuant to s. 1002.945(6). All expenditures
81 from the gold seal quality care allocation shall be used by the
82 Division of Early Learning to help meet federal targeted
83 requirements for improving quality to the extent allowable in
84 the state's approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan.

85 (c) PROGRAM ASSESSMENT DIFFERENTIAL ALLOCATION.—There is
86 created the program assessment differential allocation. The
87 allocation amount shall be determined annually by the
88 Legislature and shall be the amount prescribed in the General
89 Appropriations Act. Each early learning coalition shall be
90 reimbursed for actual fiscal year expenditures pursuant to s.

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91 1002.82(2)(o). All expenditures from the program assessment
92 differential allocation shall be used by the Division of Early
93 Learning to help meet federal targeted requirements for
94 improving quality to the extent allowable in the state's
95 approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan.

96 (d) CHILD ASSESSMENT DIFFERENTIAL ALLOCATION.—There is
97 created the child assessment differential allocation. The
98 allocation amount shall be determined annually by the
99 Legislature and shall be the amount prescribed in the General
100 Appropriations Act. Each early learning coalition shall be
101 reimbursed for actual fiscal year expenditures pursuant to s.
102 1002.82(2)(o). All expenditures from the child assessment
103 differential allocation shall be used by the Division of Early
104 Learning to help meet federal targeted requirements for
105 improving quality to the extent allowable in the state's
106 approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan.

107 (e) SPECIAL NEEDS DIFFERENTIAL ALLOCATION.—There is
108 created the special needs differential allocation. The
109 allocation amount shall be determined annually by the
110 Legislature and shall be the amount prescribed in the General
111 Appropriations Act. This allocation shall be used to implement
112 the special needs rate provisions outlined in the state's
113 approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan. Each early
114 learning coalition shall be reimbursed based on actual fiscal
115 year expenditures. All expenditures from the special needs

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116 differential allocation shall be used by the Division of Early
117 Learning to help meet federal targeted requirements for
118 improving quality to the extent allowable in the state's
119 approved Child Care and Development Fund Plan. ~~Funding for the~~
120 school readiness program shall be allocated among the early
121 learning coalitions in accordance with this section and the
122 General Appropriations Act.

123 (2) INSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS.—All instructions to early
124 learning coalitions for administering this section shall emanate
125 from the department in accordance with the policies of the
126 Legislature.

127 ~~(3) All cost savings and all revenues received through a~~
128 ~~mandatory sliding fee scale shall be used to increase the number~~
129 ~~of children served.~~

130 (3)-(4) MATCHING FUND REQUIREMENTS.—All state, federal, and
131 local matching funds provided to an early learning coalition for
132 purposes of this section shall be used for implementation of its
133 approved school readiness program plan, including the hiring of
134 staff to effectively operate the school readiness program.

135 (4)-(5) COST REQUIREMENTS.—Costs shall be kept to the
136 minimum necessary for the efficient and effective administration
137 of the school readiness program with the highest priority of
138 expenditure being direct services for eligible children.
139 However, no more than 5 percent of the funds ~~described in~~
140 ~~subsection (4)~~ may be used for administrative costs and no more

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141 than 22 percent of the funds ~~described in subsection (4)~~ may be
142 used in any fiscal year for any combination of administrative
143 costs, quality activities, and nondirect services as follows:

144 (a) Administrative costs as described in 45 C.F.R. s.
145 98.54, which shall include monitoring providers using the
146 standard methodology adopted under s. 1002.82 to improve
147 compliance with state and federal regulations and law pursuant
148 to the requirements of the statewide provider contract adopted
149 under s. 1002.82(2)(m).

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

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

158 2. Awarding grants and providing financial support to
159 school readiness program providers and their staff to assist
160 them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program
161 assessment required under s. 1002.82(2)(n), child care
162 performance standards, implementing developmentally appropriate
163 curricula and related classroom resources that support
164 curricula, providing literacy supports, and providing continued
165 professional development and training. Any grants awarded

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166 pursuant to this subparagraph shall comply with ss. 215.971 and
167 287.058.

168 3. Providing training, technical assistance, and financial
169 support to school readiness program providers, staff, and
170 parents on standards, child screenings, child assessments, child
171 development research and best practices, developmentally
172 appropriate curricula, character development, teacher-child
173 interactions, age-appropriate discipline practices, health and
174 safety, nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the
175 recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,
176 prevention, and reporting.

177 4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the
178 activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding
179 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal
180 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for
181 infant and toddler care.

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

185 6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and
186 parents, including providing developmental and health screenings
187 to school readiness program children.

188 (c) Nondirect services as described in applicable Office
189 of Management and Budget instructions are those services not
190 defined as administrative, direct, or quality services that are

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191 required to administer the school readiness program. Such
192 services include, but are not limited to:

- 193 1. Assisting families to complete the required application
194 and eligibility documentation.
195 2. Determining child and family eligibility.
196 3. Recruiting eligible child care providers.
197 4. Processing and tracking attendance records.
198 5. Developing and maintaining a statewide child care
199 information system.

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201 As used in this paragraph, the term "nondirect services" does
202 not include payments to school readiness program providers for
203 direct services provided to children who are eligible under s.
204 1002.87, administrative costs as described in paragraph (a), or
205 quality activities as described in paragraph (b).

206 (5)-(6) LIMITATION ON THE USE OF PROGRAM FUNDS.—Funds
207 appropriated for the school readiness program may not be
208 expended for the purchase or improvement of land; for the
209 purchase, construction, or permanent improvement of any building
210 or facility; or for the purchase of buses. However, funds may be
211 expended for minor remodeling and upgrading of child care
212 facilities which is necessary for the administration of the
213 program and to ensure that providers meet state and local child
214 care standards, including applicable health and safety
215 requirements.

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

Remove lines 3-6 and insert:
program; amending s. 1002.89, F.S.; providing for the
calculation of school readiness program funding for
each early learning coalition; providing requirements
for such funding calculations;