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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
02/23/2024	.	
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The Committee on Fiscal Policy (Garcia) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Between lines 376 and 377

insert:

Section 11. Section 1002.935, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1002.935 School Readiness Plus Program.—The School Readiness Plus Program is created within the Department of Education to support the continued school readiness and child care needs of working families with children. The program is



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11 contingent upon a legislative appropriation and is provided on a
12 first-come, first-served basis.

13 (1) (a) A child who is determined to be ineligible for
14 school readiness program funds due to family income during the
15 annual eligibility redetermination process pursuant to s.
16 1002.87(6) is eligible for a subsidy under this section if the
17 family income is between 85 percent and 100 percent, inclusive,
18 of the state median income.

19 (b)1. The early learning coalitions established in s.
20 1002.83 shall administer the School Readiness Plus Program and
21 provide participants with access to the benefit management and
22 career planning tool described in s. 445.009(1) (k).

23 2. The early learning coalitions must spend the minimum
24 amount of funds necessary for the efficient and effective
25 administration of the School Readiness Plus Program. The early
26 learning coalitions may not use more than 5 percent of the funds
27 allowed for the program for administrative costs in a fiscal
28 year.

29 (2) (a) The amount of the subsidy is a percentage of the
30 early learning coalition's approved school readiness program
31 provider reimbursement rates as calculated pursuant to s.
32 1002.84(17). An early learning coalition shall consider family
33 income and a required parent copayment that increases in
34 relation to the family income when establishing the percentage
35 for the amount of the subsidy for the program.

36 (b) The amount of the subsidy and parent copayment must be
37 sufficient to allow the family to access eligible school
38 readiness providers pursuant to s. 1002.88 and enable the parent
39 to achieve self-sufficiency.



40 (3) For a parent to receive a subsidy under the program, he
41 or she must:

42 (a) Provide any documentation necessary to verify the
43 parent's eligibility to receive the subsidy.

44 (b) Be responsible for the payment of all child care
45 expenses in excess of the amount of the subsidy.

46 Section 12. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the sum of
47 \$23,076,259 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the
48 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education to implement
49 the School Readiness Plus Program established in s. 1002.935,
50 Florida Statutes. These funds shall be placed in reserve. The
51 department is authorized to submit budget amendments requesting
52 the release of the funds pursuant to chapter 216, Florida
53 Statutes. Release of the funds is contingent upon the submission
54 of an allocation plan developed by the department in
55 collaboration with the early learning coalitions established
56 pursuant to s. 1002.83, Florida Statutes.

57
58 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

59 And the title is amended as follows:

60 Delete line 44

61 and insert:

62 such report; creating s. 1002.935, F.S.; creating the
63 School Readiness Plus Program within the Department of
64 Education; providing requirements for the program;
65 providing eligibility requirements to receive a
66 subsidy under the program; requiring early learning
67 coalitions to administer the program and provide
68 participants access to a specified tool; prohibiting



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69 early learning coalitions from spending more than a
70 certain percentage on administrative costs of the
71 program in a fiscal year; providing for the
72 calculation of the amount of the subsidy; providing
73 requirements for parents to receive a subsidy;
74 providing an appropriation; providing an effective
75 date.