

CS/CS/CS/HB 765

2026

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to child care and early learning services; amending s. 402.302, F.S.; revising and providing definitions; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; revising the minimum standards for child care facility licensing; amending s. 402.313, F.S.; changing the term "family day care" to "family child care"; removing provisions requiring family day care homes to provide specified information to parents; amending s. 402.3131, F.S.; removing provisions requiring large family child care homes to provide specified information to parents; amending s. 627.70161, F.S.; changing the term "family day care" to "family child care"; providing legislative intent relating to large family child care homes; defining the term "large family child care home"; prohibiting residential property insurance policies from providing coverage for liability for claims arising out of, or in connection with, the operations of large family child care homes; providing that insurers are under no obligation to defend against lawsuits covering such claims; providing exceptions; prohibiting insurers from denying, cancelling, and refusing to renew a policy for residential property insurance on the basis that the policyholders or applicants operate large

26 family child care homes; providing exceptions;
27 reenacting and amending s. 1001.24, F.S.; revising the
28 definition of the term "Department of Education
29 direct-support organization"; creating s. 1002.821,
30 F.S.; creating the Brighter Futures Program; requiring
31 a Department of Education direct-support organization
32 to administer the program; requiring program funds to
33 be deposited into the Early Learning Fund; requiring
34 that funds from state sources and interest earnings be
35 accounted separately; providing for the use of funds;
36 requiring an annual report; providing requirements for
37 such report; amending s. 1002.95, F.S.; providing for
38 the establishment and administration of the Center for
39 Early Childhood Professional Recognition under a
40 specified circumstance; amending s. 39.101, F.S.;
41 conforming a cross-reference; amending ss. 39.202,
42 125.0109, 166.0445, 212.08, 402.306, 402.309, 402.310,
43 402.3115, 402.312, 402.315, 402.316, 402.318, 402.319,
44 409.988, 411.203, 1002.55, 1002.82, 1002.83, 1002.84,
45 1002.88, 1002.895, 1002.92, 1002.93, and 1002.945,
46 F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the
47 act; providing an effective date.
48

49 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
50

51 **Section 1. Subsections (15) through (18) of section**
52 **402.302, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (16)**
53 **through (19), respectively, subsections (2), (3), (8), (9), and**
54 **(11) are amended, and a new subsection (15) is added to that**
55 **section, to read:**

56 402.302 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

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

63 (a) Public schools and nonpublic schools and their
64 administered integral programs, except as provided in s.

65 402.3025.~~r~~

66 (b) Summer camps having children in full-time residence.~~r~~

67 (c) Summer day camps.~~r~~

68 (d) Bible schools normally conducted during vacation
69 periods.~~r~~ and

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

75 (f) Before-school and after-school programs, and any

76 programs during off-school hours, offered and operated by public
77 and nonpublic elementary schools at school sites for the
78 schools' student populations.

79 (3) "Child care personnel" means all owners, operators,
80 employees, and volunteers working in a child care facility. The
81 term does not include persons who work in a child care facility
82 after hours when children are not present or parents of children
83 in a child care facility. For purposes of screening, the term
84 includes any member, over the age of 12 years, of a child care
85 facility operator's family, or person, over the age of 12 years,
86 residing with a child care facility operator if the child care
87 facility is located in or adjacent to the home of the operator
88 or if the family member of, or person residing with, the child
89 care facility operator has any direct contact with the children
90 in the facility during its hours of operation. Members of the
91 operator's family or persons residing with the operator who are
92 between the ages of 12 years and 18 years are not required to be
93 fingerprinted but must be screened for delinquency records. For
94 purposes of screening, the term also includes persons who work
95 in child care programs that provide care for children 15 hours
96 or more each week in public or nonpublic schools, family child
97 day care homes, membership organizations under s. 402.301, or
98 programs otherwise exempted under s. 402.316. The term does not
99 include public or nonpublic school personnel who are providing
100 care during regular school hours, or after hours for activities

101 related to a school's program for students attending public or
102 nonpublic school programs ~~grades kindergarten through 12~~. A
103 volunteer who assists on an intermittent basis for less than 10
104 hours per month is not included in the term "personnel" for the
105 purposes of screening and training if a person who meets the
106 screening requirement of s. 402.305(2) is always present and has
107 the volunteer in his or her line of sight. Students who observe
108 and participate in a child care facility as a part of their
109 required coursework are not considered child care personnel,
110 provided such observation and participation are on an
111 intermittent basis and a person who meets the screening
112 requirement of s. 402.305(2) is always present and has the
113 student in his or her line of sight.

114 (8) "Family child day care home" means an occupied
115 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children
116 from at least two unrelated families and which receives a
117 payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care,
118 whether or not operated for profit. Household children under 13
119 years of age, when on the premises of the family child day care
120 home or on a field trip with children enrolled in child care,
121 shall be included in the overall capacity of the licensed home.
122 A family child day care home shall be allowed to provide care
123 for one of the following groups of children, which shall include
124 household children under 13 years of age:

125 (a) A maximum of four children from birth to 12 months of

126 age.

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

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

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

134 (9) "Household children" means children who are related by
135 blood, marriage, or legal adoption to, or who are the legal
136 wards of, the family child ~~day~~ care home operator, the large
137 family child care home operator, or an adult household member
138 who permanently or temporarily resides in the home. Supervision
139 of the operator's household children shall be left to the
140 discretion of the operator unless those children receive
141 subsidized child care through the school readiness program
142 pursuant to s. 1002.92 to be in the home.

143 (11) "Large family child care home" means an occupied
144 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children
145 from at least two unrelated families, which receives a payment,
146 fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or
147 not operated for profit, and which has at least two full-time
148 child care personnel on the premises during the hours of
149 operation. One of the two full-time child care personnel must be
150 the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child

151 care home must first have operated as a licensed family child
152 ~~day~~ care home for 2 years, with an operator who has had a child
153 development associate credential or its equivalent for 1 year,
154 before seeking licensure as a large family child care home.
155 Household children under 13 years of age, when on the premises
156 of the large family child care home or on a field trip with
157 children enrolled in child care, shall be included in the
158 overall capacity of the licensed home. A large family child care
159 home shall be allowed to provide care for one of the following
160 groups of children, which shall include household children under
161 13 years of age:

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

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

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

167 (a) In kindergarten through grade 12;

168 (b) Three-year olds in a public or nonpublic school
169 exceptional student education program; or

170 (c) Four-year olds in a public or nonpublic school child
171 care program.

172 **Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2), paragraph (a)**
173 **of subsection (7), and paragraph (a) of subsection (17) of**
174 **section 402.305, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

175 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

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

178 (a) Good moral character based upon screening as defined
179 in s. 402.302 ~~s. 402.302(15)~~. This screening shall be conducted
180 as provided in chapter 435, using the level 2 standards for
181 screening provided in that chapter, and include employment
182 history checks, a search of criminal history records, sexual
183 predator and sexual offender registries, and child abuse and
184 neglect registry of any state in which the current or
185 prospective child care personnel resided during the preceding 5
186 years. The department shall complete the screening and provide
187 the results to the child care facility within 3 business days
188 from the receipt of the criminal history record check. If the
189 department is unable to complete the screening within 3 business
190 days, the department shall issue the current or prospective
191 child care personnel a 45-day provisional-hire status while all
192 required information is being requested and the department is
193 awaiting results unless the department has reason to believe a
194 disqualifying factor may exist. During the 45-day period, the
195 current or prospective child care personnel must be under the
196 direct supervision of a screened and trained staff member when
197 in contact with children.

198
199 The department may grant limited exemptions to the minimum
200 standards provided in this subsection which authorize a person

201 to work in a specified role or with a specified population.

202 (7) SANITATION AND SAFETY.—

203 (a) Minimum standards must include requirements for
204 sanitary and safety conditions, first aid treatment, emergency
205 procedures, and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The
206 minimum standards must require that ~~at least~~ one staff person
207 trained in person in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, as evidenced
208 by current documentation of course completion, be present at all
209 times that children are present.

210 (17) TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP.—

211 (a) One week prior to the transfer of ownership of a child
212 care facility or family child day care home, the transferor
213 shall notify the parent or caretaker of each child of the
214 impending transfer.

215 **Section 3. Section 402.313, Florida Statutes, is amended**
216 **to read:**

217 402.313 Family child day care homes.—

218 (1) Family child day care homes shall be licensed under
219 this act if they are presently being licensed under an existing
220 county licensing ordinance or if the board of county
221 commissioners passes a resolution that family child day care
222 homes be licensed.

223 (a) If not subject to license, family child day care homes
224 shall register annually with the department, providing the
225 following information:

226 1. The name and address of the home.

227 2. The name of the operator.

228 3. The number of children served.

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

233 5. Proof of screening and background checks.

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

237 a. State and local rules and regulations that govern child
238 care.

239 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

240 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

241 d. Child development, including typical and atypical
242 language development; and cognitive, motor, social, and self-
243 help skills development.

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

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

251 7. Proof that immunization records are kept current.

252 8. Proof of completion of the required continuing
253 education units or clock hours.

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

256 (c) The department may provide technical assistance to
257 counties and family child day care home providers to enable
258 counties and family child day care providers to achieve
259 compliance with family child day care homes standards.

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

263 (3) Child care personnel in family child day care homes
264 shall be subject to the applicable screening provisions
265 contained in ss. 402.305(2) and 402.3055. For purposes of
266 screening in family child day care homes, the term includes any
267 member over the age of 12 years of a family child day care home
268 operator's family, or persons over the age of 12 years residing
269 with the operator in the family child day care home. Members of
270 the operator's family, or persons residing with the operator,
271 who are between the ages of 12 years and 18 years shall not be
272 required to be fingerprinted, but shall be screened for
273 delinquency records.

274 (4) Operators of family child day care homes must
275 successfully complete an approved 30-clock-hour introductory

276 course in child care, as evidenced by passage of a competency
277 examination, before caring for children.

278 (5) In order to further develop their child care skills
279 and, if appropriate, their administrative skills, operators of
280 family child day care homes shall be required to complete an
281 additional 1 continuing education unit of approved training or
282 10 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the
283 department, annually.

284 (6) Operators of family child day care homes shall be
285 required to complete 0.5 continuing education unit of approved
286 training in early literacy and language development of children
287 from birth to 5 years of age one time. The year that this
288 training is completed, it shall fulfill the 0.5 continuing
289 education unit or 5 clock hours of the annual training required
290 in subsection (5).

291 (7) Operators of family child day care homes shall be
292 required annually to complete a health and safety home
293 inspection self-evaluation checklist developed by the department
294 in conjunction with the statewide resource and referral program.
295 The completed checklist shall be signed by the operator of the
296 family child day care home and provided to parents as
297 certification that basic health and safety standards are being
298 met.

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

301 (9) The department shall prepare a brochure on family
302 child day care for distribution by the department and by local
303 licensing agencies, if appropriate, to family child day care
304 homes for distribution to parents utilizing such child care, and
305 to all interested persons, including physicians and other health
306 professionals; mental health professionals; school teachers or
307 other school personnel; social workers or other professional
308 child care, foster care, residential, or institutional workers;
309 and law enforcement officers. The brochure shall, at a minimum,
310 contain the following information:

311 (a) A brief description of the requirements for family
312 child day care registration, training, and fingerprinting and
313 screening.

314 (b) A listing of those counties that require licensure of
315 family child day care homes. Such counties shall provide an
316 addendum to the brochure that provides a brief description of
317 the licensure requirements or may provide a brochure in lieu of
318 the one described in this subsection, provided it contains all
319 the required information on licensure and the required
320 information in the subsequent paragraphs.

321 (c) A statement indicating that information about the
322 family child day care home's compliance with applicable state or
323 local requirements can be obtained by telephoning the department
324 office or the office of the local licensing agency, if
325 appropriate, at a telephone number or numbers which shall be

326 affixed to the brochure.

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

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

336 (10) On an annual basis, the department shall evaluate the
337 registration and licensure system for family child day care
338 homes. Such evaluation shall, at a minimum, address the
339 following:

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

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

345 (c) The number of complaints received concerning family
346 child day care, the nature of the complaints, and the resolution
347 of such complaints.

348 (d) The training activities utilized by child care
349 personnel in family child day care homes for meeting the state
350 or local training requirements.

351
352 The evaluation shall be utilized by the department in any
353 administrative modifications or adjustments to be made in the
354 registration of family child day care homes or in any
355 legislative requests for modifications to the system of
356 registration or to other requirements for family child day care
357 homes.

358 (11) In order to inform the public of the state
359 requirement for registration of family child day care homes as
360 well as the other requirements for such homes to legally operate
361 in the state, the department shall institute a media campaign to
362 accomplish this end. Such a campaign shall include, at a
363 minimum, flyers, newspaper advertisements, radio advertisements,
364 and television advertisements.

365 (12) Notwithstanding any other state or local law or
366 ordinance, any family child day care home licensed pursuant to
367 this chapter or pursuant to a county ordinance shall be charged
368 the utility rates accorded to a residential home. A licensed
369 family child day care home may not be charged commercial utility
370 rates.

371 (13) The department shall, by rule, establish minimum
372 standards for family child day care homes that are required to
373 be licensed by county licensing ordinance or county licensing
374 resolution or that voluntarily choose to be licensed. The
375 standards should include requirements for staffing, training,

376 maintenance of immunization records, minimum health and safety
377 standards, reduced standards for the regulation of child care
378 during evening hours by municipalities and counties, and
379 enforcement of standards.

380 ~~(14) During the months of August and September of each~~
381 ~~year, each family day care home shall provide parents of~~
382 ~~children enrolled in the home detailed information regarding the~~
383 ~~causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus in an~~
384 ~~effort to educate those parents regarding the importance of~~
385 ~~immunizing their children against influenza as recommended by~~
386 ~~the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers~~
387 ~~for Disease Control and Prevention.~~

388 ~~(15) During the months of April and September of each~~
389 ~~year, at a minimum, each family day care home shall provide~~
390 ~~parents of children attending the family day care home~~
391 ~~information regarding the potential for a distracted adult to~~
392 ~~fail to drop off a child at the family day care home and instead~~
393 ~~leave the child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival at the~~
394 ~~adult's destination. The family day care home shall also give~~
395 ~~parents information about resources with suggestions to avoid~~
396 ~~this occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer or~~
397 ~~brochure with this information that shall be posted to the~~
398 ~~department's website, which family day care homes may choose to~~
399 ~~reproduce and provide to parents to satisfy the requirements of~~
400 ~~this subsection.~~

401 **Section 4. Subsections (9) and (10) of section 402.3131, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

403 402.3131 Large family child care homes.—
404 (9) ~~During the months of August and September of each year, each large family child care home shall provide parents of children enrolled in the home detailed information regarding the causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus in an effort to educate those parents regarding the importance of immunizing their children against influenza as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.~~

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

406 **Section 5. Section 627.70161, Florida Statutes, is amended**

426 **to read:**

427 627.70161 Family child day care and large family child
428 care insurance.—

429 (1) PURPOSE AND INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that
430 family child day care and large family child care homes fulfill
431 a vital role in providing child care in Florida. It is the
432 intent of the Legislature that residential property insurance
433 coverage should not be canceled, denied, or nonrenewed solely on
434 the basis of the child family day care services at the
435 residence. The Legislature also recognizes that the potential
436 liability of residential property insurers is substantially
437 increased by the rendition of child care services on the
438 premises. The Legislature therefore finds that there is a public
439 need to specify that contractual liabilities that arise in
440 connection with the operation of the family child day care home
441 or the large family child care home are excluded from
442 residential property insurance policies unless they are
443 specifically included in such coverage.

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

445 (a) "Child care" means the care, protection, and
446 supervision of a child, for a period of less than 24 hours a day
447 on a regular basis, which supplements parental care, enrichment,
448 and health supervision for the child, in accordance with his or
449 her individual needs, and for which a payment, fee, or grant is
450 made for care.

451 (b) "Family child day care home" means an occupied
452 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children
453 from at least two unrelated families and which receives a
454 payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care,
455 whether or not operated for a profit.

456 (c) "Large family child care home" means an occupied
457 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children
458 from at least two unrelated families, which receives a payment,
459 fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, whether or
460 not operated for profit, and which has at least two full-time
461 child care personnel on the premises during the hours of
462 operation. One of the two full-time child care personnel must be
463 the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child
464 care home must first have operated as a licensed family child
465 care home for at least 2 years, with an operator who has held a
466 child development associate credential or its equivalent for at
467 least 1 year, before seeking licensure as a large family child
468 care home. Household children under 13 years of age, when on the
469 premises of the large family child care home or on a field trip
470 with children enrolled in child care, must be included in the
471 overall capacity of the licensed home. A large family child care
472 home may provide care for one of the following groups of
473 children, which must include household children under 13 years
474 of age:

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

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

478 (3) FAMILY CHILD DAY CARE AND LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE
479 HOMES; COVERAGE.—A residential property insurance policy may
480 shall not provide coverage for liability for claims arising out
481 of, or in connection with, the operation of a family child day
482 care home or a large family child care home, and the insurer
483 shall be under no obligation to defend against lawsuits covering
484 such claims, unless:

485 (a) Specifically covered in a policy; or
486 (b) Covered by a rider or endorsement for business
487 coverage attached to a policy.

488 (4) DENIAL, CANCELLATION, REFUSAL TO RENEW PROHIBITED.—An
489 insurer may not deny, cancel, or refuse to renew a policy for
490 residential property insurance solely on the basis that the
491 policyholder or applicant operates a family child day care home
492 or a large family child care home. In addition to other lawful
493 reasons for refusing to insure, an insurer may deny, cancel, or
494 refuse to renew a policy of a family child day care home or a
495 large family child care home provider if one or more of the
496 following conditions occur:

497 (a) The policyholder or applicant provides care for more
498 children than authorized ~~for family day care homes~~ by s.
499 402.302;

500 (b) The policyholder or applicant fails to maintain a

501 separate commercial liability policy or an endorsement providing
502 liability coverage for the family child day care home or the
503 large family child care home operations;

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

507 (d) Discovery of willful or grossly negligent acts or
508 omissions or any violations of state laws or regulations
509 establishing safety standards for family child day care homes or
510 large family child care homes by the named insured or his or her
511 representative which materially increase any of the risks
512 insured.

513 **Section 6. Section 1001.24, Florida Statutes, is reenacted
514 and amended to read:**

515 1001.24 Direct-support organization; use of property;
516 board of directors; audit.—

517 (1) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section, the
518 term:

519 (a) "Department of Education direct-support organization"
520 means an organization:

521 1. That is a corporation not for profit that is
522 incorporated under the provisions of chapter 617 and approved by
523 the Department of State.

524 2. That is organized and operated exclusively to receive,
525 hold, invest, and administer property and to make expenditures

526 to or for the benefit of the early learning programs under parts
527 V and VI of chapter 1002, child care facilities licensed under
528 s. 402.305, family child care homes licensed or registered under
529 s. 402.313, large family child care homes licensed under s.
530 402.3131, and public prekindergarten through 12th grade
531 education in this state.

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

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

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

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

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

546 (c) Shall not permit the use of property, facilities, or
547 personal services of the direct-support organization if such
548 organization does not provide equal employment opportunities to
549 all persons, regardless of race, color, national origin, gender,
550 age, or religion.

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

555 (4) ANNUAL AUDIT.—Each direct-support organization shall
556 provide for an annual financial audit in accordance with s.
557 215.981. The identity of donors who desire to remain anonymous
558 shall be protected, and that anonymity shall be maintained in
559 the auditor's report. All records of the organization other than
560 the auditor's report, management letter, and any supplemental
561 data requested by the Auditor General and the Office of Program
562 Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall be
563 confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1).

564 **Section 7. Section 1002.821, Florida Statutes, is created
565 to read:**

566 1002.821 Brighter Futures Program.—The Brighter Futures
567 Program is established to support early learning and child care
568 needs of Florida families.

569 (1) The direct-support organization established pursuant
570 to s. 1001.24 shall administer the program.

571 (2) (a) Any bequests, gifts, grants, and donations made to
572 the program as may be solicited for such purpose from public or
573 private sources shall be deposited into the Early Learning Fund.

574 (b) Any legislative appropriation from the Child Care and
575 Development Block Grant Trust Fund which may be provided to the

576 program shall be deposited into the Early Learning Fund and
577 shall be used to fund children from the waiting list pursuant to
578 subparagraph (3) (a)1.

579 (c) Any funds received from state sources and interest
580 earnings shall be accounted for separately.

581 (3) Funds shall be used to provide:

582 (a) Care for children from birth until the child is
583 eligible to enroll in kindergarten in accordance with:

584 1. An allocation methodology to fund the waiting list of
585 early learning coalitions; or

586 2. The intentions of a donor.

587 (b) The early learning coalition shall fund school
588 readiness program providers and providers selected by the
589 donor's recipient at the reimbursement rate calculated pursuant
590 to s. 1002.84(17). If the provider selected by the donor's
591 recipient is not a school readiness program provider, the
592 department shall adopt a contract for use by an early learning
593 coalition with the provider to provide such funds.

594 (c) Any family served under subparagraph (a)1. shall have
595 an early learning coalition apply a parent copayment based on
596 family income pursuant to s. 1002.84(9) or s. 1002.935(2) (b).

597 (4) By January 1 of each year, beginning January 1, 2027,
598 the Division of Early Learning shall summarize the performance
599 of the program and the program's fundraising activities for the
600 previous fiscal year, identify the child care needs supported by

601 the fund principal or earnings and those supported by private
602 sources, bequests, gifts, grants, and donations. The report must
603 also include:

604 (a) Outcome data, including the number of children served
605 and any child outcomes, by each early learning coalition.
606 (b) The amount of funds spent on administrative expenses
607 and fundraising and the amount of funds raised from private
608 sources.

609 **Section 8. Section 1002.95, Florida Statutes, is amended**
610 **to read:**

611 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)
612 Scholarship Program.—

613 (1) (a) The department may contract for the administration
614 of the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)
615 Scholarship Program, which provides educational scholarships to
616 caregivers and administrators of early childhood programs,
617 family ~~child~~ day care homes, and large family child care homes.
618 The goal of the program is to increase the education and
619 training for caregivers, increase the compensation for child
620 caregivers who complete the program requirements, and reduce the
621 rate of participant turnover in the field of early childhood
622 education.

623 (b) Subject to appropriation, the TEACH Scholarships
624 Program administrator contracted under paragraph (a) shall also
625 establish and administer the Center for Early Childhood

626 Professional Recognition to ensure alignment of training
627 statewide, including, but not limited to, methods of early
628 childhood professional training approval, and implementation of
629 competency-based assessments aligned to the early learning
630 professional development standards and career pathways under s.
631 1002.995.

632 (2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules as
633 necessary to administer this section.

634 **Section 9. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section**
635 **39.101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

636 39.101 Central abuse hotline.—The central abuse hotline is
637 the first step in the safety assessment and investigation
638 process.

639 (4) USE OF INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CENTRAL ABUSE
640 HOTLINE.—

641 (a) Information received by the central abuse hotline may
642 not be used for employment screening, except as provided in s.
643 39.202(2)(a) and (h) or s. 402.302(16) ~~s. 402.302(15)~~.

644 **Section 10. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section**
645 **39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

646 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of
647 child abuse or neglect; exception.—

648 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), access to such
649 records, excluding the name of, or other identifying information
650 with respect to, the reporter which may only be released as

651 provided in subsection (5), may only be granted to the following
652 persons, officials, and agencies:

653 (a) Employees, authorized agents, or contract providers of
654 the department, the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons
655 with Disabilities, the Agency for Health Care Administration,
656 the Department of Education, or county agencies responsible for
657 carrying out:

658 1. Child or adult protective investigations;

659 2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;

660 3. Early intervention and prevention services;

661 4. Healthy Start services;

662 5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes,
663 child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapters 393
664 and 394, family child day care homes, providers who receive
665 school readiness funding under part VI of chapter 1002, or other
666 homes used to provide for the care and welfare of children;

667 6. Employment screening for caregivers in residential
668 group homes and facilities licensed under chapters 393, 394, and
669 409; or

670 7. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided
671 by certified domestic violence centers working at the
672 department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.

673

674 Also, employees or agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice
675 responsible for the provision of services to children, pursuant

676 to chapters 984 and 985.

677 **Section 11. Section 125.0109, Florida Statutes, is amended**
678 **to read:**

679 125.0109 Family child day care homes; local zoning
680 regulation.—The operation of a residence as a family child day
681 care home, as defined by law, registered or licensed with the
682 Department of Children and Families shall constitute a valid
683 residential use for purposes of any local zoning regulations,
684 and no such regulation shall require the owner or operator of
685 such family child day care home to obtain any special exemption
686 or use permit or waiver, or to pay any special fee in excess of
687 \$50, to operate in an area zoned for residential use.

688 **Section 12. Section 166.0445, Florida Statutes, is amended**
689 **to read:**

690 166.0445 Family child day care homes; local zoning
691 regulation.—The operation of a residence as a family child day
692 care home, as defined by law, registered or licensed with the
693 Department of Children and Families shall constitute a valid
694 residential use for purposes of any local zoning regulations,
695 and no such regulation shall require the owner or operator of
696 such family child day care home to obtain any special exemption
697 or use permit or waiver, or to pay any special fee in excess of
698 \$50, to operate in an area zoned for residential use.

699 **Section 13. Paragraph (j) of subsection (7) of section**
700 **212.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

701 212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and
702 storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the
703 rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the
704 storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following
705 are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this
706 chapter.

707 (7) MISCELLANEOUS EXEMPTIONS.—Exemptions provided to any
708 entity by this chapter do not inure to any transaction that is
709 otherwise taxable under this chapter when payment is made by a
710 representative or employee of the entity by any means,
711 including, but not limited to, cash, check, or credit card, even
712 when that representative or employee is subsequently reimbursed
713 by the entity. In addition, exemptions provided to any entity by
714 this subsection do not inure to any transaction that is
715 otherwise taxable under this chapter unless the entity has
716 obtained a sales tax exemption certificate from the department
717 or the entity obtains or provides other documentation as
718 required by the department. Eligible purchases or leases made
719 with such a certificate must be in strict compliance with this
720 subsection and departmental rules, and any person who makes an
721 exempt purchase with a certificate that is not in strict
722 compliance with this subsection and the rules is liable for and
723 shall pay the tax. The department may adopt rules to administer
724 this subsection.

725 (j) Household fuels.—Also exempt from payment of the tax

726 imposed by this chapter are sales of utilities to residential
727 households or owners of residential models in this state by
728 utility companies who pay the gross receipts tax imposed under
729 s. 203.01, and sales of fuel to residential households or owners
730 of residential models, including oil, kerosene, liquefied
731 petroleum gas, coal, wood, and other fuel products used in the
732 household or residential model for the purposes of heating,
733 cooking, lighting, and refrigeration, regardless of whether such
734 sales of utilities and fuels are separately metered and billed
735 direct to the residents or are metered and billed to the
736 landlord. If any part of the utility or fuel is used for a
737 nonexempt purpose, the entire sale is taxable. The landlord
738 shall provide a separate meter for nonexempt utility or fuel
739 consumption. For the purposes of this paragraph, licensed family
740 child day care homes shall also be exempt.

741 **Section 14. Subsection (3) of section 402.306, Florida
742 Statutes, is amended to read:**

743 402.306 Designation of licensing agency; dissemination by
744 the department and local licensing agency of information on
745 child care.—

746 (3) The department and local licensing agencies, or the
747 designees thereof, shall be responsible for coordination and
748 dissemination of information on child care to the community and
749 shall make available through electronic means all licensing
750 standards and procedures, health and safety standards for school

751 readiness providers, monitoring and inspection reports, and the
752 names and addresses of licensed child care facilities, school
753 readiness program providers, and, where applicable pursuant to
754 s. 402.313, licensed or registered family child day care homes.
755 This information shall also include the number of deaths,
756 serious injuries, and instances of substantiated child abuse
757 that have occurred in child care settings each year; research
758 and best practices in child development; and resources regarding
759 social-emotional development, parent and family engagement,
760 healthy eating, and physical activity.

761 **Section 15. Subsections (1) and (2) and paragraph (a) of
762 subsection (3) of section 402.309, Florida Statutes, are amended
763 to read:**

764 402.309 Provisional license or registration.—
765 (1) The local licensing agency or the department,
766 whichever is authorized to license child care facilities in a
767 county, may issue a provisional license for child care
768 facilities, family child day care homes, or large family child
769 care homes, or a provisional registration for family child day
770 care homes to applicants for an initial license or registration
771 or to licensees or registrants seeking a renewal who are unable
772 to meet all the standards provided for in ss. 402.301-402.319.

773 (2) A provisional license or registration may not be
774 issued unless the operator or owner makes adequate provisions
775 for the health and safety of the child. A provisional license

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776 may be issued for a child care facility if all of the screening
777 materials have been timely submitted. A provisional license or
778 registration may not be issued unless the child care facility,
779 family child day care home, or large family child care home is
780 in compliance with the requirements for screening of child care
781 personnel in ss. 402.305, 402.3055, 402.313, and 402.3131,
782 respectively.

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

787 (a) Is applying for an initial license or registration for
788 a child care facility, a family child day care home, or a large
789 family child care home;

790 **Section 16. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) and subsection
791 (4) of section 402.310, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

792 402.310 Disciplinary actions; hearings upon denial,
793 suspension, or revocation of license or registration;
794 administrative fines.—

795 (1)

796 (d) The disciplinary sanctions ~~set forth~~ in this section
797 apply to licensed child care facilities, licensed large family
798 child care homes, and licensed or registered family child day
799 care homes.

800 (4) An applicant, registrant, or licensee shall have the

801 right to appeal a decision of the local licensing agency to a
802 representative of the department. Any required hearing shall be
803 held in the county in which the child care facility, family
804 child day care home, or large family child care home is being
805 operated or is to be established. The hearing shall be conducted
806 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 120.

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

809 402.3115 Elimination of duplicative and unnecessary
810 inspections; abbreviated inspections.—

811 (1) The Department of Children and Families and local
812 governmental agencies that license child care facilities shall
813 develop and implement a plan to eliminate duplicative and
814 unnecessary inspections of child care facilities, family child
815 day care homes, and large family child care homes.

816 (2) (a) The department and the local governmental agencies
817 shall develop and implement an abbreviated inspection plan for
818 child care facilities, family child day care homes, and large
819 family child care homes that meet all of the following
820 conditions:

- 821 1. Have been licensed for at least 2 consecutive years.
- 822 2. Have not had a Class 1 deficiency, as defined by rule,
823 for at least 2 consecutive years.
- 824 3. Have not had more than three of the same Class 2
825 deficiencies, as defined by rule, for at least 2 consecutive

826 years.

827 4. Have received at least two full onsite renewal
828 inspections in the most recent 2 years.

829 5. Do not have any current uncorrected violations.

830 6. Do not have any open regulatory complaints or active
831 child protective services investigations.

832 **Section 18. Section 402.312, Florida Statutes, is amended
833 to read:**

834 402.312 License required; injunctive relief.—

835 (1) The operation of a child care facility without a
836 license, a family child day care home without a license or
837 registration, or a large family child care home without a
838 license is prohibited. If the department or the local licensing
839 agency discovers that a child care facility is being operated
840 without a license, a family child day care home is being
841 operated without a license or registration, or a large family
842 child care home is being operated without a license, the
843 department or local licensing agency is authorized to seek an
844 injunction in the circuit court where the facility is located to
845 enjoin continued operation of such facility, family child day
846 care home, or large family child care home. When the court is
847 closed for the transaction of judicial business, the department
848 or local licensing agency is authorized to seek an emergency
849 injunction to enjoin continued operation of such unlicensed
850 facility, unregistered or unlicensed family child day care home,

851 or unlicensed large family child care home, which injunction
852 shall be continued, modified, or revoked on the next day of
853 judicial business.

854 (2) Other grounds for seeking an injunction to close a
855 child care facility, family child day care home, or a large
856 family child care home are that:

857 (a) There is any violation of the standards applied under
858 ss. 402.301-402.319 which threatens harm to any child in the
859 child care facility, a family child day care home, or large
860 family child care home.

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

863 (c) A child care facility, family child day care home, or
864 large family child care home continues to have children in
865 attendance after the closing date established by the department
866 or the local licensing agency.

867 (3) The department or local licensing agency may impose an
868 administrative fine on any child care facility, family child day
869 care home, or large family child care home operating without a
870 license or registration, consistent with ~~the provisions of~~ s.
871 402.310.

872 **Section 19. Subsection (3) of section 402.315, Florida
873 Statutes, is amended to read:**

874 402.315 Funding; license fees.—

875 (3) The department shall collect a fee for any license it

876 issues for a child care facility, family child day care home, or
877 large family child care home pursuant to ss. 402.305, 402.313,
878 and 402.3131.

879 (a) For a child care facility licensed pursuant to s.
880 402.305, such fee shall be \$1 per child, based on the licensed
881 capacity of the facility, except that the minimum fee shall be
882 \$25 per facility and the maximum fee shall be \$100 per facility.

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

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

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

889 **Section 20. Subsection (2) of section 402.316, Florida
890 Statutes, is amended to read:**

891 402.316 Exemptions.—

892 (2) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319 do not apply to
893 a child care facility or family child day care home if the child
894 care facility or family child day care home has a certificate
895 issued by the United States Department of Defense or by the
896 United States Coast Guard to provide child care and has
897 completed background screening by the United States Department
898 of Defense pursuant to 34 U.S.C. s. 20351 and 32 C.F.R. part 86
899 and received a favorable suitability and fitness determination.
900 If the child care facility or family child day care home elects

901 to serve children ineligible for care under the United States
902 Department of Defense Instruction 6060.02, the child care
903 facility or family child ~~day~~ care home must be licensed under
904 this chapter.

905 **Section 21. Section 402.318, Florida Statutes, is amended**
906 **to read:**

907 402.318 Advertisement.—A person, as defined in s. 1.01(3),
908 may not advertise a child care facility, family child ~~day~~ care
909 home, or large family child care home without including within
910 such advertisement the state or local agency license number or
911 registration number of such facility or home. Violation of this
912 section is a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as
913 provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

914 **Section 22. Section 402.319, Florida Statutes, is amended**
915 **to read:**

916 402.319 Penalties.—

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

920 (a) Fail, by false statement, misrepresentation,
921 impersonation, or other fraudulent means, to disclose in any
922 application for voluntary or paid employment or licensure
923 regulated under ss. 402.301-402.318 all information required
924 under those sections or a material fact used in making a
925 determination as to such person's qualifications to be child

926 care personnel, as defined in s. 402.302, in a child care
927 facility, family child day care home, or other child care
928 program.

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

931 (c) Operate or attempt to operate a family child day care
932 home without a license or without registering with the
933 department, whichever is applicable.

934 (d) Operate or attempt to operate a child care facility or
935 family child day care home under a license that is suspended,
936 revoked, or terminated.

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

940 (f) Make any other misrepresentation, by act or omission,
941 regarding the licensure or operation of a child care facility or
942 family child day care home to a parent or guardian who has a
943 child placed in the facility or is inquiring as to placing a
944 child in the facility, or to a representative of the licensing
945 authority, or to a representative of a law enforcement agency,
946 including, but not limited to, any misrepresentation as to:

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

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

951 3. The qualifications or credentials of child care
952 personnel;

953 4. Whether a family child day care home or child care
954 facility complies with the screening requirements of s. 402.305;
955 or

956 5. Whether child care personnel have the training as
957 required by s. 402.305.

958 (2) If any child care personnel makes any
959 misrepresentation in violation of this section to a parent or
960 guardian who has placed a child in the child care facility or
961 family child day care home, and the parent or guardian relied
962 upon the misrepresentation, and the child suffers great bodily
963 harm, permanent disfigurement, permanent disability, or death as
964 a result of an intentional act or negligence by the child care
965 personnel, then the child care personnel commits a felony of the
966 second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083,
967 or s. 775.084.

968 (3) Each child care facility, family child day care home,
969 and large family child care home shall annually submit an
970 affidavit of compliance with s. 39.201.

971 **Section 23. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
972 409.988, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

973 409.988 Community-based care lead agency duties; general
974 provisions.—

975 (2) LICENSURE.—

976 (c) Substitute care providers who are licensed under s.
977 409.175 and who have contracted with a lead agency are also
978 authorized to provide registered or licensed family child day
979 care under s. 402.313 if such care is consistent with federal
980 law and if the home has met the requirements of s. 402.313.

981 **Section 24. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section
982 411.203, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

983 411.203 Continuum of comprehensive services.—The
984 Department of Education and the Department of Health shall
985 utilize the continuum of prevention and early assistance
986 services for high-risk pregnant women and for high-risk and
987 handicapped children and their families, as outlined in this
988 section, as a basis for the intraagency and interagency program
989 coordination, monitoring, and analysis required in this chapter.
990 The continuum shall be the guide for the comprehensive statewide
991 approach for services for high-risk pregnant women and for high-
992 risk and handicapped children and their families, and may be
993 expanded or reduced as necessary for the enhancement of those
994 services. Expansion or reduction of the continuum shall be
995 determined by intraagency or interagency findings and agreement,
996 whichever is applicable. Implementation of the continuum shall
997 be based upon applicable eligibility criteria, availability of
998 resources, and interagency prioritization when programs impact
999 both agencies, or upon single agency prioritization when
1000 programs impact only one agency. The continuum shall include,

1001 but not be limited to:

1002 (8) SUPPORT SERVICES FOR ALL EXPECTANT PARENTS AND PARENTS
1003 OF HIGH-RISK CHILDREN.—

1004 (b) Child care and early childhood programs, including,
1005 but not limited to, licensed child care facilities, family child
1006 day care homes, therapeutic child care, Head Start, and
1007 preschool programs in public and private schools.

1008 **Section 25. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section**

1009 **1002.55, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1010 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
1011 private prekindergarten providers.—

1012 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,
1013 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the
1014 following requirements:

1015 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child
1016 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family child day care
1017 home licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home
1018 licensed under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from
1019 licensure under s. 402.3025(2), faith-based child care provider
1020 exempt from licensure under s. 402.316, child development
1021 program that is accredited by a national accrediting body and
1022 operates on a military installation that is certified by the
1023 United States Department of Defense, or private prekindergarten
1024 provider that has been issued a provisional license under s.
1025 402.309. A private prekindergarten provider may not deliver the

1026 program while holding a probation-status license under s.
1027 402.310.

1028 **Section 26. Paragraph (u) of subsection (2) of section
1029 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1030 1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

1031 (2) The department shall:

1032 (u) Administer a statewide toll-free Warm-Line to provide
1033 assistance and consultation to child care facilities and family
1034 child day care homes regarding health, developmental,
1035 disability, and special needs issues of the children they are
1036 serving, particularly children with disabilities and other
1037 special needs. The department shall:

1038 1. Annually inform child care facilities and family child
1039 day care homes of the availability of this service through the
1040 child care resource and referral network under s. 1002.92.

1041 2. Expand or contract for the expansion of the Warm-Line
1042 to maintain at least one Warm-Line in each early learning
1043 coalition service area.

1044 **Section 27. Paragraph (j) of subsection (4) of section
1045 1002.83, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1046 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

1047 (4) Each early learning coalition must include the
1048 following member positions; however, in a multicounty coalition,
1049 each ex officio member position may be filled by multiple
1050 nonvoting members but no more than one voting member shall be

1051 seated per member position. If an early learning coalition has
1052 more than one member representing the same entity, only one of
1053 such members may serve as a voting member:

1054 (j) A representative of private for-profit child care
1055 providers, including private for-profit family child day care
1056 homes.

1057 **Section 28. Subsection (4) of section 1002.84, Florida
1058 Statutes, is amended to read:**

1059 1002.84 Early learning coalitions; school readiness powers
1060 and duties.—Each early learning coalition shall:

1061 (4) Establish a regional Warm-Line as directed by the
1062 department pursuant to s. 1002.82(2)(u). Regional Warm-Line
1063 staff shall provide onsite technical assistance, when requested,
1064 to assist child care facilities and family child day care homes
1065 with inquiries relating to the strategies, curriculum, and
1066 environmental adaptations the child care facilities and family
1067 child day care homes may need as they serve children with
1068 disabilities and other special needs.

1069 **Section 29. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1) of
1070 section 1002.88, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

1071 1002.88 School readiness program provider standards;
1072 eligibility to deliver the school readiness program.—

1073 (1) To be eligible to deliver the school readiness
1074 program, a school readiness program provider must:

1075 (a) Be a child care facility licensed under s. 402.305, a

1076 family child day care home licensed or registered under s.
1077 402.313, a large family child care home licensed under s.
1078 402.3131, a public school or nonpublic school exempt from
1079 licensure under s. 402.3025, a faith-based child care provider
1080 exempt from licensure under s. 402.316, a before-school or
1081 after-school program described in s. 402.305(1) (c), a child
1082 development program that is accredited by a national accrediting
1083 body and operates on a military installation that is certified
1084 by the United States Department of Defense, an informal child
1085 care provider to the extent authorized in the state's Child Care
1086 and Development Fund Plan as approved by the United States
1087 Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s.
1088 98.18, or a provider who has been issued a provisional license
1089 pursuant to s. 402.309. A provider may not deliver the program
1090 while holding a probation-status license under s. 402.310.

1091 (c) Provide basic health and safety of its premises and
1092 facilities and compliance with requirements for age-appropriate
1093 immunizations of children enrolled in the school readiness
1094 program.

1095 1. For a provider that is licensed, compliance with s.
1096 402.305, s. 402.3131, or s. 402.313 and this subsection, as
1097 verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this requirement.

1098 2. For a provider that is a registered family child day
1099 care home or is not subject to licensure or registration by the
1100 Department of Children and Families, compliance with this

1101 subsection, as verified pursuant to s. 402.311, satisfies this
1102 requirement. Upon verification pursuant to s. 402.311, the
1103 provider shall annually post the health and safety checklist
1104 adopted by the department prominently on its premises in plain
1105 sight for visitors and parents and shall annually submit the
1106 checklist to its local early learning coalition.

1107 3. For a child development program that is accredited by a
1108 national accrediting body and operates on a military
1109 installation that is certified by the United States Department
1110 of Defense, the submission and verification of annual
1111 inspections pursuant to United States Department of Defense
1112 Instructions 6060.2 and 1402.05 satisfies this requirement.

1113 **Section 30. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
1114 1002.895, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

1115 1002.895 Market rate schedule.—The school readiness
1116 program market rate schedule shall be implemented as follows:

1117 (2) The market rate schedule must differentiate rates by
1118 provider type, including, but not limited to:

1119 (c) Family child day care homes licensed or registered
1120 under s. 402.313.

1121 **Section 31. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) and subsection
1122 (4) of section 1002.92, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

1123 1002.92 Child care and early childhood resource and
1124 referral.—

1125 (3) Child care resource and referral agencies shall

1126 provide the following services:

1127 (a) Identification of existing public and private child
1128 care and early childhood education services, including child
1129 care services by public and private employers, and the
1130 development of an early learning provider performance profile of
1131 those services through the single statewide information system
1132 developed by the department under s. 1002.82(2)(q). These
1133 services may include family child ~~day~~ care, public and private
1134 child care programs, the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
1135 Program, Head Start, the school readiness program, special
1136 education programs for prekindergarten children with
1137 disabilities, services for children with developmental
1138 disabilities, full-time and part-time programs, before-school
1139 and after-school programs, and vacation care programs. The early
1140 learning provider performance profile shall include, but not be
1141 limited to:

1142 1. Type of program.
1143 2. Hours of service.
1144 3. Ages of children served.
1145 4. Number of children served.
1146 5. Program information.
1147 6. Fees and eligibility for services.
1148 7. Availability of transportation.
1149 8. Participation in the Child Care Food Program, if
1150 applicable.

1151 9. A link to licensing inspection reports, if applicable.

1152 10. The components of the Voluntary Prekindergarten

1153 Education Program performance metric calculated under s. 1002.68

1154 which must consist of the program assessment composite score,

1155 learning gains score, achievement score, and its designations,

1156 if applicable.

1157 11. The school readiness program assessment composite

1158 score and program assessment care level composite score results

1159 delineated by infant classrooms, toddler classrooms, and

1160 preschool classrooms results under s. 1002.82, if applicable.

1161 12. Gold Seal Quality Care designation under s. 1002.945,

1162 if applicable.

1163 13. Indication of whether the provider implements a

1164 curriculum approved by the department and the name of the

1165 curriculum, if applicable.

1166 14. Participation in school readiness child assessment

1167 under s. 1002.82.

1168 (4) A child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 and

1169 licensed and registered family child ~~day~~ care homes must provide

1170 the statewide child care and resource and referral network with

1171 the following information annually:

1172 (a) Type of program.

1173 (b) Hours of service.

1174 (c) Ages of children served.

1175 (d) Fees and eligibility for services.

1176 **Section 32. Subsection (2) of section 1002.93, Florida**
1177 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

1178 1002.93 School readiness program transportation services.—

1179 (2) The transportation servicers may only provide
1180 transportation to each child participating in the school
1181 readiness program to the extent that such transportation is
1182 necessary to provide child care opportunities that otherwise
1183 would not be available to a child whose home is more than a
1184 reasonable walking distance from the nearest child care facility
1185 or family child day care home.

1186 **Section 33. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1), paragraphs**
1187 **(a) and (c) of subsection (3), and subsection (4) of section**
1188 **1002.945, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

1189 1002.945 Gold Seal Quality Care Program.—

1190 (1)

1191 (b) A child care facility, large family child care home,
1192 or family child day care home that is accredited by an
1193 accrediting association approved by the Department of Education
1194 under subsection (3) and meets all other requirements shall,
1195 upon application to the department, receive a separate "Gold
1196 Seal Quality Care" designation.

1197 (3) (a) In order to be approved by the Department of
1198 Education for participation in the Gold Seal Quality Care
1199 Program, an accrediting association must apply to the department
1200 and demonstrate that it:

1201 1. Is a recognized accrediting association.

1202 2. Has accrediting standards that substantially meet or

1203 exceed the Gold Seal Quality Care standards adopted by the state

1204 board under subsection (2).

1205 3. Is a registered corporation with the Department of

1206 State.

1207 4. Can provide evidence that the process for accreditation

1208 has, at a minimum, all of the following components:

1209 a. Clearly defined prerequisites that a child care

1210 provider must meet before beginning the accreditation process.

1211 However, accreditation may not be granted to a child care

1212 facility, large family child care home, or family child ~~day~~ care

1213 home before the site is operational and is attended by children.

1214 b. Procedures for completion of a self-study and

1215 comprehensive onsite verification process for each classroom

1216 that documents compliance with accrediting standards.

1217 c. A training process for accreditation verifiers to

1218 ensure inter-rater reliability.

1219 d. Ongoing compliance procedures that include requiring

1220 each accredited child care facility, large family child care

1221 home, and family child ~~day~~ care home to file an annual report

1222 with the accrediting association and risk-based, onsite auditing

1223 protocols for accredited child care facilities, large family

1224 child care homes, and family child ~~day~~ care homes.

1225 e. Procedures for the revocation of accreditation due to

1226 failure to maintain accrediting standards as evidenced by sub-
1227 subparagraph d. or any other relevant information received by
1228 the accrediting association.

1229 f. Accreditation renewal procedures that include an onsite
1230 verification occurring at least every 5 years.

1231 g. A process for verifying continued accreditation
1232 compliance in the event of a transfer of ownership of
1233 facilities.

1234 h. A process to communicate issues that arise during the
1235 accreditation period with governmental entities that have a
1236 vested interest in the Gold Seal Quality Care Program, including
1237 the Department of Education, the Department of Children and
1238 Families, the Department of Health, local licensing entities if
1239 applicable, and the early learning coalition.

1240 (c) If an accrediting association has granted
1241 accreditation to a child care facility, large family child care
1242 home, or family child day care under fraudulent terms or failed
1243 to conduct onsite verifications, the accrediting association
1244 shall be liable for the repayment of any rate differentials paid
1245 under subsection (6).

1246 (4) In order to obtain and maintain a designation as a
1247 Gold Seal Quality Care provider, a child care facility, large
1248 family child care home, or family child day care home must meet
1249 the following additional criteria:

1250 (a) The child care provider must not have had any class I

1251 violations, as defined by rule of the Department of Children and
1252 Families, within the 2 years preceding its application for
1253 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of
1254 a class I violation shall be grounds for termination of the
1255 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider until the
1256 provider has no class I violations for a period of 2 years.

1257 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or
1258 more of the same class II violations, as defined by rule of the
1259 Department of Children and Families, within the 2 years
1260 preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality
1261 Care provider. Commission of three or more of the same class II
1262 violations within a 2-year period shall be grounds for
1263 termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care
1264 provider until the provider has no class II violations that are
1265 the same for a period of 1 year.

1266 (c) The child care provider must not have been cited for
1267 the same class III violation, as defined by rule of the
1268 Department of Children and Families, three or more times and
1269 failed to correct the violation within 1 year after the date of
1270 each citation, within the 2 years preceding its application for
1271 designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care provider. Commission of
1272 the same class III violation three or more times and failure to
1273 correct within the required time during a 2-year period may be
1274 grounds for termination of the designation as a Gold Seal
1275 Quality Care provider until the provider has no class III

1276 violations for a period of 1 year.

1277 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), if the Department of
1278 Education determines through a formal process that a provider
1279 has been in business for at least 5 years and has no other class
1280 I violations recorded, the department may recommend to the state
1281 board that the provider maintain its Gold Seal Quality Care
1282 status. The state board's determination regarding such
1283 provider's status is final.

1284 **Section 34.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.