

26 | specified information; requiring prior written
27 | verification by specified entity relating to
28 | licensing; amending s. 402.305, F.S.; revising
29 | licensing standards for all licensed child care
30 | facilities and minimum standards and training
31 | requirements for child care personnel; requiring the
32 | Department of Children and Families to conduct
33 | specified screening of child care personnel within a
34 | specified timeframe and issue provisional approval of
35 | such personnel under certain conditions; providing an
36 | exception; deleting a requirement that the department
37 | evaluate certain training requirements and testing
38 | procedures; prohibiting minimum standards from
39 | requiring more than two staff members with specified
40 | training to be present at all times when children are
41 | present; deleting provisions relating to educating
42 | parents about the importance of specified
43 | immunizations, a program to assist children in
44 | preventing and avoiding physical and mental abuse, and
45 | specialized child care facilities for the care of
46 | mildly ill children; amending s. 402.3115, F.S.;
47 | requiring the department and certain local
48 | governmental agencies to develop and implement a plan
49 | to eliminate duplicative and unnecessary inspections
50 | of home providers; revising requirements for an

51 abbreviated inspection plan for certain child care
52 facilities; requiring the department to submit a
53 report to the Governor and Legislature by a specified
54 date; requiring the report to contain certain
55 information and recommendations; requiring the
56 department to adopt rules and revise policies based on
57 such recommendations; requiring the department to
58 revise a specified plan; authorizing the department to
59 contract for the production of the report; amending s.
60 402.316, F.S.; authorizing certain child care
61 facilities to operate without a license; amending s.
62 627.70161, F.S.; providing that specified insurance
63 provisions apply to large family child care homes;
64 amending s. 1002.55, F.S.; revising requirements for
65 public school and private prekindergarten providers;
66 amending s. 1002.67, F.S.; prohibiting a specified
67 curriculum from including a certain program and
68 electronic devices; providing an exception; amending
69 s. 1002.68, F.S.; requiring the program assessment to
70 be conducted in accordance with specified
71 requirements; requiring the specified methodology for
72 calculating the performance of each private
73 prekindergarten provider and public school provider to
74 be conducted by an independent expert with specified
75 experience; amending s. 1002.82, F.S.; revising the

76 powers and duties of the Department of Education for
77 the administration of the Child Care and Development
78 Block Grant Trust Fund; amending s. 1002.83, F.S.;
79 revising the appointment of members of the early
80 learning coalition; amending s. 1002.89, F.S.;
81 providing for specified financial support to child
82 care providers and staff to be included in the school
83 readiness program costs; amending s. 1002.945, F.S.;
84 revising requirements for a child care provider to
85 obtain and maintain a designation as a Gold Seal
86 Quality Care provider; amending s. 1002.95, F.S.;
87 authorizing early learning coalitions to support a
88 specified scholarship program; amending s. 1008.25,
89 F.S.; requiring, rather than authorizing, certain
90 students to be eligible to receive certain reading
91 interventions before kindergarten without being
92 referred to the local school district first; amending
93 ss. 39.101, 1002.57, and 1002.59, F.S.; conforming
94 cross-references; providing an effective date.

95
96 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

97
98 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 170.201, Florida
99 Statutes, is amended to read:

100 170.201 Special assessments.—

101 (2) Property owned or occupied by a religious institution
 102 and used as a place of worship or education; by a public or
 103 private preschool, elementary school, middle school, or high
 104 school; or by a governmentally financed, insured, or subsidized
 105 housing facility that is used primarily for persons who are
 106 elderly or disabled shall be exempt from any special assessment
 107 levied by a municipality to fund any service if the municipality
 108 so desires. As used in this subsection, the term "religious
 109 institution" means any church, synagogue, or other established
 110 physical place for worship at which nonprofit religious services
 111 and activities are regularly conducted and carried on and the
 112 term "governmentally financed, insured, or subsidized housing
 113 facility" means a facility that is financed by a mortgage loan
 114 made or insured by the United States Department of Housing and
 115 Urban Development under s. 8, s. 202, s. 221(d)(3) or (4), s.
 116 232, or s. 236 of the National Housing Act and is owned or
 117 operated by an entity that qualifies as an exempt charitable
 118 organization under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 119 For purposes of this subsection, the term "preschool" means any
 120 child care facility licensed under s. 402.305 that serves
 121 children under 5 years of age.

122 Section 2. Section 220.19, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 123 read:

124 220.19 Child care tax credits.—

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

126 (a) "Eligible facility" means a facility that:
 127 1. Is licensed under s. 402.305; or
 128 2. Is exempt from licensure under s. 402.316.

129 (b) "Tax due" includes any tax required under this chapter
 130 or chapter 211, chapter 561, or chapter 624 or due under chapter
 131 212 from a direct pay permitholder as a result of a direct pay
 132 permit held pursuant to s. 212.183.

133 (2) AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT TAX CREDITS; LIMITATIONS.—

134 (a)1. A credit of 50 percent of the startup costs of a
 135 child care facility, as defined by s. 402.302, operated by a
 136 corporation for its employees is allowed against any tax due for
 137 a taxable year. An additional credit against such tax is allowed
 138 for the operation of a child care facility by a corporation for
 139 its employees, which credit is in the amount of \$300 per month
 140 for each child or grandchild of such employee enrolled in the
 141 facility if such employee is a caregiver, as defined in s.
 142 39.01(9), to such child or grandchild.

143 2. A credit is allowed against any tax due for a taxable
 144 year for a corporation making payments to a child care facility
 145 as defined in s. 402.302 that is an eligible facility if the
 146 payments are made in the name of and for the benefit of an
 147 employee employed by the corporation whose child or grandchild
 148 attends the child care. The credit shall be in an amount equal
 149 to 100 percent of the amount of such child care payments up to a
 150 maximum credit of \$3600 per child per year. The corporation may

151 make payments directly to the facility or contract with an early
152 learning coalition to process payments.

153 (b) The maximum credit amount for all approved child care
154 costs incurred by the corporation in a taxable year is based on
155 the average number of employees employed by the corporation
156 during such year. For an employer that employed:

157 1. One to twenty-five employees, the maximum credit is
158 \$50,000.

159 2. Twenty-six to fifty employees, the maximum credit is
160 \$100,000.

161 3. Fifty-one to seventy-five employees, the maximum credit
162 is \$150,000.

163 4. Seventy-six to one hundred employees, the maximum
164 credit is \$200,000.

165 5. One hundred one to two hundred employees, the maximum
166 credit is \$300,000.

167 6. Two hundred one to five hundred employees, the maximum
168 credit is \$500,000.

169 7. More than five hundred employees, the maximum credit is
170 \$600,000.

171 (c) The total amount of tax credits that may be approved
172 under paragraph (b) is \$7.5 million annually.

173 (d) An application for a credit under this section must be
174 approved by the department before the corporation claims the
175 credit on a return.

176 (e)~~(1)~~ If a ~~the~~ credit granted under this section is not
177 fully used in any one taxable year because of insufficient tax
178 liability on the part of the corporation, the unused amount may
179 be carried forward for a period not to exceed 5 taxable years.
180 The carryover credit may be used in a subsequent year when the
181 tax imposed by this chapter for that year exceeds the credit for
182 which the corporation is eligible in that year under this
183 section after applying the other credits and unused carryovers
184 in the order provided by s. 220.02(8).

185 (f)~~(2)~~ If a corporation receives a credit for child care
186 facility startup costs, and the facility fails to operate for at
187 least 5 years, a pro rata share of the credit must be repaid, in
188 accordance with the formula: $A = C \times (1 - (N/60))$, l where:

189 1.~~(a)~~ "A" is the amount in dollars of the required
190 repayment.

191 2.~~(b)~~ "C" is the total credits taken by the corporation
192 for child care facility startup costs.

193 3.~~(c)~~ "N" is the number of months the facility was in
194 operation.

195
196 This repayment requirement is inapplicable if the corporation
197 goes out of business or can demonstrate to the department that
198 its employees no longer want to have a child care facility.

199 (g) A corporation that files a consolidated return as a
200 member of an affiliated group under s. 220.131(1) may be

201 authorized to claim the credit on a consolidated return basis.

202 (h) A dealer who claims a tax credit under chapter 212
203 must file his or her tax returns and pay his or her taxes by
204 electronic means under s. 213.755.

205 (3) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

206 (a) A corporation may only claim a credit for a child care
207 facility as defined by s. 402.302 that is an eligible facility.

208 (b) The services of a child care facility for which a
209 corporation claims a credit under subparagraph (2) (a)1. must be
210 available to all employees employed by the corporation, or must
211 be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, and must be
212 used by employees employed by the corporation.

213 (c) Two or more corporations may jointly establish and
214 operate a child care facility according to this section. If two
215 or more corporations choose to jointly establish and operate a
216 child care facility, or cause a not-for-profit corporation to
217 establish and operate a child care facility, the corporations
218 must file a joint application, or the not-for-profit corporation
219 may file an application pursuant to subsection (4) setting forth
220 the corporations' proposal. The participating corporations may
221 proportion the credits in any manner they choose; however,
222 participating corporations may not receive more than \$600,000 in
223 credits for all approved child care costs incurred by the
224 participating corporations in any one taxable year.

225 (d) Child care payments for which a corporation claims a

226 credit under subparagraph (2)(a)2. may not exceed the amount
227 charged by the child care facility for other children of like
228 age and ability of persons not employed by the corporation.

229 (4) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Beginning January 1, 2024, a
230 corporation may submit an application to the department for the
231 purposes of determining qualification for a credit under this
232 section to be applied to a taxable year beginning on or after
233 January 1, 2024. The department must approve the application for
234 the credit before the corporation is authorized to claim the
235 credit on a return.

236 (a) The application must include:

237 1.a. For a credit under subparagraph (2)(a)1., a proposal
238 for establishing a child care facility for use by its employees,
239 the total number of employees' children and grandchildren
240 expected to be enrolled, and the expected date operations will
241 begin. A credit may not be claimed on a return until operations
242 have begun.

243 b. For a credit under subparagraph (2)(a)2., the total
244 number of children and grandchildren for whom child care
245 payments will be paid and the estimated total annual amount of
246 such payments.

247 2. The taxable year in which the credit is expected to be
248 earned. A corporation may apply for a credit to be used for a
249 prior taxable year at any time before the date on which the
250 corporation is required to file a return for that year pursuant

251 to s. 220.222.

252 3. Written verification by the Department of Children and
 253 Families or local licensing agency that the facility is a child
 254 care facility under s. 402.302 and is an eligible facility. Such
 255 verification must be attached to the application.

256 (b) The department shall approve tax credits on a first-
 257 come, first-served basis.

258 (5) ADMINISTRATION.—

259 (a) The department may adopt all rules pursuant to the
 260 Administrative Procedures Act to administer this section,
 261 including rules for the approval or disapproval of proposals
 262 submitted by corporations and rules to provide for cooperative
 263 arrangements between for-profit and not-for-profit corporations.

264 (b) The department's decision to approve or disapprove a
 265 proposal must be in writing, and, if the proposal is approved,
 266 the decision must state the maximum credit authorized for the
 267 corporation.

268 (c) All applications approved under this section require
 269 prior written verification by the Department of Children and
 270 Families or local licensing agency that the facility is a child
 271 care facility under s. 402.302 and is an eligible facility.

272 Section 3. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section
 273 402.305, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (f),
 274 subsection (18) is renumbered as subsection (17), and paragraph
 275 (a) of subsection (1), paragraphs (a) and (e) and present

276 paragraph (f) of subsection (2), paragraph (a) of subsection
 277 (7), subsections (9) and (13), and present subsection (17) of
 278 that section are amended, to read:

279 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

280 (1) LICENSING STANDARDS.—The department shall establish
 281 licensing standards that each licensed child care facility must
 282 meet regardless of the origin or source of the fees used to
 283 operate the facility or the type of children served by the
 284 facility.

285 (a) The standards shall be designed to address the
 286 ~~following areas:~~

287 1. ~~the health, sanitation, safety, and~~ sanitary adequate
 288 physical conditions surroundings for all children served by ~~in~~
 289 child care facilities.

290 2. The health and nutrition of all children in child care.

291 3. The child development needs of all children in child
 292 care.

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

295 (a) Good moral character based upon screening as defined
 296 in s. 402.302(15). This screening shall be conducted as provided
 297 in chapter 435, using the level 2 standards for screening
 298 provided set forth in that chapter, and include employment
 299 history checks, a search of criminal history records, sexual
 300 predator and sexual offender registries, and child abuse and

301 neglect registry of any state in which the current or
302 prospective child care personnel resided during the preceding 5
303 years. The department shall complete the screening and provide
304 the results to the child care facility within 3 business days.
305 If the department is unable to complete the screening within 3
306 business days, the department shall issue the current or
307 prospective child care personnel a 45-day-provisional-hire
308 status while all required information is being requested and the
309 department is awaiting results unless the department has reason
310 to believe a disqualifying factor may exist. During the 45-day
311 period, the current or prospective child care personnel must be
312 under the direct supervision of a screened and trained staff
313 member when in contact with children.

314 (e) Minimum training requirements for child care
315 personnel.

316 1. Such minimum standards for training shall ensure that
317 all child care personnel take an approved 40-clock-hour
318 introductory course in child care, which course covers ~~at least~~
319 the following topic areas:

320 a. State and local rules and regulations which govern
321 child care.

322 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

323 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

324 d. Child development, including typical and atypical
325 language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills

326 development.

327 e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using
328 a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to
329 determine the child's developmental age level.

330 f. Specialized areas, including computer technology for
331 professional and classroom use and early literacy and language
332 development of children from birth to 5 years of age, as
333 determined by the department, for owner-operators and child care
334 personnel of a child care facility.

335 g. Developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum
336 disorder and Down syndrome, and early identification, use of
337 available state and local resources, classroom integration, and
338 positive behavioral supports for children with developmental
339 disabilities.

340 h. Online training coursework, provided at no cost by the
341 department, to meet minimum training standards for child care
342 personnel.

343
344 Within 90 days after employment, child care personnel shall
345 begin training to meet the training requirements. Child care
346 personnel shall successfully complete such training within 1
347 year after the date on which the training began, as evidenced by
348 passage of an in-person or online a competency examination.

349 Successful completion of the 40-clock-hour introductory course
350 shall articulate into community college credit in early

351 childhood education, pursuant to ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25.
352 Exemption from all or a portion of the required training shall
353 be granted to child care personnel based upon educational
354 credentials or passage of competency examinations. Child care
355 personnel possessing a 2-year degree or higher that includes 6
356 college credit hours in early childhood development or child
357 growth and development, or a child development associate
358 credential or an equivalent state-approved child development
359 associate credential, or a child development associate waiver
360 certificate shall be automatically exempted from the training
361 requirements in sub-subparagraphs b., d., and e.

362 ~~2. The introductory course in child care shall stress, to~~
363 ~~the extent possible, an interdisciplinary approach to the study~~
364 ~~of children.~~

365 2.3. The introductory course shall cover recognition and
366 prevention of shaken baby syndrome; prevention of sudden infant
367 death syndrome; recognition and care of infants and toddlers
368 with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum
369 disorder and Down syndrome; and early childhood brain
370 development within the topic areas identified in this paragraph.

371 3.4. On an annual basis in order to further their child
372 care skills and, if appropriate, administrative skills, child
373 care personnel who have fulfilled the requirements for the child
374 care training shall be required to take an additional 1
375 continuing education unit of approved inservice training, or 10

376 clock hours of equivalent training, as determined by the
377 department.

378 ~~4.5.~~ Child care personnel shall be required to complete
379 0.5 continuing education unit of approved training or 5 clock
380 hours of equivalent training, as determined by the department,
381 in early literacy and language development of children from
382 birth to 5 years of age one time. The year that this training is
383 completed, it shall fulfill the 0.5 continuing education unit or
384 5 clock hours of the annual training required in subparagraph 3.
385 ~~4.~~

386 ~~5.6.~~ Procedures for ensuring the training of qualified
387 child care professionals to provide training of child care
388 personnel, including onsite training, shall be included in the
389 minimum standards. It is recommended that the state community
390 child care coordination agencies (central agencies) be
391 contracted by the department to coordinate such training when
392 possible. Other district educational resources, such as
393 community colleges and career programs, can be designated in
394 such areas where central agencies may not exist or are
395 determined not to have the capability to meet the coordination
396 requirements set forth by the department.

397 ~~6.7.~~ Training requirements do ~~shall~~ not apply to certain
398 occasional or part-time support staff, including, but not
399 limited to, swimming instructors, piano teachers, dance
400 instructors, and gymnastics instructors.

401 ~~8. The department shall evaluate or contract for an~~
 402 ~~evaluation for the general purpose of determining the status of~~
 403 ~~and means to improve staff training requirements and testing~~
 404 ~~procedures. The evaluation shall be conducted every 2 years. The~~
 405 ~~evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, determining the~~
 406 ~~availability, quality, scope, and sources of current staff~~
 407 ~~training; determining the need for specialty training; and~~
 408 ~~determining ways to increase inservice training and ways to~~
 409 ~~increase the accessibility, quality, and cost-effectiveness of~~
 410 ~~current and proposed staff training. The evaluation methodology~~
 411 ~~shall include a reliable and valid survey of child care~~
 412 ~~personnel.~~

413 7.9. The child care operator shall be required to take
 414 basic training in serving children with disabilities within 5
 415 years after employment, either as a part of the introductory
 416 training or the annual 8 hours of inservice training.

417 ~~(f) Periodic health examinations.~~

418 (7) SANITATION AND SAFETY.—

419 (a) Minimum standards shall include requirements for
 420 sanitary and safety conditions, first aid treatment, emergency
 421 procedures, and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The
 422 minimum standards may not shall require more than two members of
 423 ~~that at least one~~ staff ~~person~~ trained in cardiopulmonary
 424 resuscitation, as evidenced by current documentation of course
 425 completion, to must be present at all times when that children

426 are present.

427 (9) ADMISSIONS AND RECORDKEEPING.—

428 (a) Minimum standards shall include requirements for
429 preadmission and periodic health examinations, requirements for
430 immunizations, and requirements for maintaining emergency
431 information and health records on all children.

432 ~~(b) During the months of August and September of each~~
433 ~~year, each child care facility shall provide parents of children~~
434 ~~enrolled in the facility detailed information regarding the~~
435 ~~causes, symptoms, and transmission of the influenza virus in an~~
436 ~~effort to educate those parents regarding the importance of~~
437 ~~immunizing their children against influenza as recommended by~~
438 ~~the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers~~
439 ~~for Disease Control and Prevention.~~

440 ~~(c) During the months of April and September of each year,~~
441 ~~at a minimum, each facility shall provide parents of children~~
442 ~~enrolled in the facility information regarding the potential for~~
443 ~~a distracted adult to fail to drop off a child at the facility~~
444 ~~and instead leave the child in the adult's vehicle upon arrival~~
445 ~~at the adult's destination. The child care facility shall also~~
446 ~~give parents information about resources with suggestions to~~
447 ~~avoid this occurrence. The department shall develop a flyer or~~
448 ~~brochure with this information that shall be posted to the~~
449 ~~department's website, which child care facilities may choose to~~
450 ~~reproduce and provide to parents to satisfy the requirements of~~

451 ~~this paragraph.~~

452 (b)~~(d)~~ Because of the nature and duration of drop-in child
 453 care, requirements for preadmission and periodic health
 454 examinations and requirements for medically signed records of
 455 immunization required for child care facilities shall not apply.
 456 A parent of a child in drop-in child care shall, however, be
 457 required to attest to the child's health condition and the type
 458 and current status of the child's immunizations.

459 (c)~~(e)~~ Any child shall be exempt from medical or physical
 460 examination or medical or surgical treatment upon written
 461 request of the parent or guardian of such child who objects to
 462 the examination and treatment. However, the laws, rules, and
 463 regulations relating to contagious or communicable diseases and
 464 sanitary matters shall not be violated because of any exemption
 465 from or variation of the health and immunization minimum
 466 standards.

467 (13) PLAN OF ACTIVITIES.—Minimum standards shall ensure
 468 that each child care facility has and implements a written plan
 469 for the daily provision of varied activities and active and
 470 quiet play opportunities appropriate to the age of the child.
 471 ~~The written plan must include a program, to be implemented~~
 472 ~~periodically for children of an appropriate age, which will~~
 473 ~~assist the children in preventing and avoiding physical and~~
 474 ~~mental abuse.~~

475 ~~(17) SPECIALIZED CHILD CARE FACILITIES FOR THE CARE OF~~

476 ~~MILDLY ILL CHILDREN. Minimum standards shall be developed by the~~
 477 ~~department, in conjunction with the Department of Health, for~~
 478 ~~specialized child care facilities for the care of mildly ill~~
 479 ~~children. The minimum standards shall address the following~~
 480 ~~areas: personnel requirements; staff-to-child ratios; staff~~
 481 ~~training and credentials; health and safety; physical facility~~
 482 ~~requirements, including square footage; client eligibility,~~
 483 ~~including a definition of "mildly ill children"; sanitation and~~
 484 ~~safety; admission and recordkeeping; dispensing of medication;~~
 485 ~~and a schedule of activities.~~

486 Section 4. Section 402.3115, Florida Statutes, is amended
 487 to read:

488 402.3115 Elimination of duplicative and unnecessary
 489 inspections; abbreviated inspections; reports.-

490 (1) The Department of Children and Families and local
 491 governmental agencies that license child care facilities shall
 492 develop and implement a plan to eliminate duplicative and
 493 unnecessary inspections of child care facilities, family day
 494 care homes, and large family child care homes.

495 (2)(a) ~~In addition,~~ The department and the local
 496 governmental agencies shall develop and implement an abbreviated
 497 inspection plan for child care facilities that:

- 498 1. Have been licensed for at least 2 consecutive years;
- 499 2. Have had no Class 1 and no more than two of the same ~~or~~
 500 Class 2 deficiencies, as defined by rule, for at least 2

501 consecutive years;

502 3. Have received at least two full onsite renewal
 503 inspections in the most recent 2 years;

504 4. Do not have any current uncorrected violations; and

505 5. Do not have any open regulatory complaints or active
 506 child protective services investigations.

507 (b) The abbreviated inspection must include those elements
 508 identified by the department ~~and the local governmental agencies~~
 509 as being key indicators of whether the child care facility
 510 continues to provide quality care and programming and must be
 511 updated every 5 years.

512 (3) By December 31, 2024, and every 5 years thereafter,
 513 the department shall submit a report to the Governor, the
 514 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
 515 Representatives. The report must include, at a minimum,
 516 information concerning:

517 (a) Training requirements and coursework offered by the
 518 department to child care personnel. The report must include the
 519 results of a reliable and valid survey of child care personnel
 520 regarding such training and coursework. Such results must be
 521 used to make recommendations regarding:

522 1. The availability, quality, relevance, scope, cost
 523 effectiveness, and sources of current and prospective training.

524 2. The need for specialty training.

525 3. Approaches to increase inservice training.

526 (b) Licensing and regulation of child care facilities. The
 527 report shall identify and make recommendations regarding:

528 1. The elimination of unnecessary, vague, or redundant
 529 rules.

530 2. Streamlined standards used to classify violations.

531 3. The application of rules in a manner to eliminate
 532 subjectivity by licensing staff.

533 4. Methods to simplify inspections.

534 5. The elimination of duplicative and unnecessary
 535 inspections.

536 (c) The plan developed and implemented under subsection
 537 (1).

538 (4) The department shall adopt rules and revise policies
 539 based on the recommendations in the report.

540 (5) The department shall revise the plan under subsection
 541 (1) as necessary to maintain the validity and effectiveness of
 542 inspections.

543 (6) The department may contract for the production of the
 544 report required under subsection (3).

545 Section 5. Subsection (1) of section 402.316, Florida
 546 Statutes, is amended to read:

547 402.316 Exemptions.—

548 (1)(a) The provisions of ss. 402.301-402.319, except for
 549 the requirements regarding screening of child care personnel,
 550 shall not apply to a child care facility:

551 1. Which is an integral part of church or parochial
 552 schools conducting regularly scheduled classes, courses of
 553 study, or educational programs accredited by, or by a member of,
 554 an organization which publishes and requires compliance with its
 555 standards for health, safety, and sanitation; or

556 2. Which is only attended by children or grandchildren of
 557 employees employed by the corporation.

558 (b) ~~However,~~ Such facilities shall still meet minimum
 559 requirements of the applicable local governing body as to
 560 health, sanitation, and safety and shall meet the screening
 561 requirements pursuant to ss. 402.305 and 402.3055.

562 (c) Failure by a facility to comply with such screening
 563 requirements shall result in the loss of the facility's
 564 exemption from licensure.

565 Section 6. Section 627.70161, Florida Statutes, is amended
 566 to read:

567 627.70161 Family day care and large family child care
 568 insurance.—

569 (1) PURPOSE AND INTENT.—The Legislature recognizes that
 570 family day care homes and large family child care homes fulfill
 571 a vital role in providing child care in Florida. It is the
 572 intent of the Legislature that residential property insurance
 573 coverage should not be canceled, denied, or nonrenewed solely on
 574 the basis of the ~~family~~ day care or child care services at the
 575 residence. The Legislature also recognizes that the potential

576 liability of residential property insurers is substantially
 577 increased by the rendition of child care services on the
 578 premises. The Legislature therefore finds that there is a public
 579 need to specify that contractual liabilities that arise in
 580 connection with the operation of the family day care home or
 581 large family child care home are excluded from residential
 582 property insurance policies unless they are specifically
 583 included in such coverage.

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

585 (a) "Child care" means the care, protection, and
 586 supervision of a child, for a period of less than 24 hours a day
 587 on a regular basis, which supplements parental care, enrichment,
 588 and health supervision for the child, in accordance with his or
 589 her individual needs, and for which a payment, fee, or grant is
 590 made for care.

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

596 (c) "Large family child care home" means an occupied
 597 residence in which child care is regularly provided for children
 598 from at least two unrelated families, which receives a payment,
 599 fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, regardless
 600 of whether operated for profit, and which has at least two full-

601 time child care personnel on the premises during the hours of
 602 operation. One of the two full-time child care personnel must be
 603 the owner or occupant of the residence. A large family child
 604 care home must first have operated as a licensed family day care
 605 home for at least 2 years, with an operator who has held a child
 606 development associate credential or its equivalent for at least
 607 1 year, before seeking licensure as a large family child care
 608 home. Household children under 13 years of age, when on the
 609 premises of the large family child care home or on a field trip
 610 with children enrolled in child care, shall be included in the
 611 overall capacity of the licensed home. A large family child care
 612 home may provide care for one of the following groups of
 613 children, which shall include household children under 13 years
 614 of age:

615 (a) A maximum of eight children from birth to 24 months of
 616 age.

617 (b) A maximum of 12 children, with no more than four
 618 children under 24 months of age.

619 (3) FAMILY DAY CARE AND LARGE FAMILY CHILD CARE;

620 COVERAGE.—A residential property insurance policy shall not
 621 provide coverage for liability for claims arising out of, or in
 622 connection with, the operation of a family day care home or
 623 large family child care home, and the insurer shall be under no
 624 obligation to defend against lawsuits covering such claims,
 625 unless:

626 (a) Specifically covered in a policy; or
 627 (b) Covered by a rider or endorsement for business
 628 coverage attached to a policy.

629 (4) DENIAL, CANCELLATION, REFUSAL TO RENEW PROHIBITED.—An
 630 insurer may not deny, cancel, or refuse to renew a policy for
 631 residential property insurance solely on the basis that the
 632 policyholder or applicant operates a family day care home or
 633 large family child care home. In addition to other lawful
 634 reasons for refusing to insure, an insurer may deny, cancel, or
 635 refuse to renew a policy of a family day care home or large
 636 family child care home provider if one or more of the following
 637 conditions occur:

638 (a) The policyholder or applicant provides care for more
 639 children than authorized ~~for family day care homes~~ by s.
 640 402.302;

641 (b) The policyholder or applicant fails to maintain a
 642 separate commercial liability policy or an endorsement providing
 643 liability coverage for the family day care home or large family
 644 child care home operations;

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

648 (d) Discovery of willful or grossly negligent acts or
 649 omissions or any violations of state laws or regulations
 650 establishing safety standards for family day care homes or large

651 family child care home by the named insured or his or her
652 representative which materially increase any of the risks
653 insured.

654 Section 7. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (3) of
655 section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

656 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by
657 private prekindergarten providers.—

658 (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,
659 a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the
660 following requirements:

661 (a) The private prekindergarten provider must be a child
662 care facility licensed under s. 402.305, family day care home
663 licensed under s. 402.313, large family child care home licensed
664 under s. 402.3131, nonpublic school exempt from licensure under
665 s. 402.3025(2), faith-based or corporation-provided child care
666 provider exempt from licensure under s. 402.316, child
667 development program that is accredited by a national accrediting
668 body and operates on a military installation that is certified
669 by the United States Department of Defense, or private
670 prekindergarten provider that has been issued a provisional
671 license under s. 402.309. A private prekindergarten provider may
672 not deliver the program while holding a probation-status license
673 under s. 402.310.

674 (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for
675 each prekindergarten class of 11 children or fewer, at least one

676 | prekindergarten instructor who meets each of the following
677 | requirements:

678 | 1. The prekindergarten instructor must hold, at a minimum,
679 | one of the following credentials:

680 | a. A child development associate credential issued by the
681 | National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional
682 | Recognition; or

683 | b. A credential approved by the Department of Children and
684 | Families as being equivalent to or greater than the credential
685 | described in sub-subparagraph a.

686 |

687 | The Department of Children and Families may adopt rules under
688 | ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and procedures
689 | for approving equivalent credentials under sub-subparagraph b.

690 | 2. Within 45 days after commencing employment, the
691 | prekindergarten instructor must successfully complete three
692 | emergent literacy training courses that include developmentally
693 | appropriate and experiential learning practices for children and
694 | a student performance standards training course approved by the
695 | department as meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted
696 | under s. 1002.59. The prekindergarten instructor must complete
697 | an emergent literacy training course at least once every 5 years
698 | after initially completing the three emergent literacy training
699 | courses. The courses in this subparagraph must be recognized as
700 | part of the informal early learning and career pathway

701 identified by the department under s. 1002.995(1)(b). The
 702 requirement for completion of the standards training course
 703 shall take effect July 1, 2022. The courses must be made
 704 available online or in person.

705 Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section
 706 1002.67, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

707 1002.67 Performance standards and curricula.—

708 (2)

709 (b) Each private prekindergarten provider's and public
 710 school's curriculum must be developmentally appropriate and
 711 must:

712 1. Be designed to prepare a student for early literacy and
 713 provide for instruction in early math skills;

714 2. Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in
 715 attaining the performance standards adopted by the department
 716 under subsection (1); ~~and~~

717 3. Support student learning gains through differentiated
 718 instruction that shall be measured by the coordinated screening
 719 and progress monitoring program under s. 1008.25(8). However,
 720 such program may not be used for direct student instruction; and

721 4. Prohibit student use of electronic devices for direct
 722 student instruction. However, electronic devices may be used to
 723 complete the coordinated screening and progress monitoring
 724 program under s. 1008.25(8).

725 Section 9. Subsection (2) and paragraphs (a), (d), and (f)

726 of subsection (4) of section 1002.68, Florida Statutes, are
727 amended to read:

728 1002.68 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
729 accountability.—

730 (2) Beginning with the 2023-2024 ~~2022-2023~~ program year,
731 each private prekindergarten provider and public school in the
732 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program must participate in
733 a program assessment of each voluntary prekindergarten education
734 classroom. The program assessment shall measure the quality of
735 teacher-child interactions, including emotional support,
736 classroom organization, and instructional support for children
737 ages 3 to 5 years. The program assessment must be conducted in
738 accordance with the requirements of the assessment provider.

739 Each private prekindergarten provider and public school in the
740 Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program shall receive from
741 the department the results of the program assessment for each
742 classroom within 14 days after the observation. Each early
743 learning coalition shall be responsible for the administration
744 of the program assessments which must be conducted by
745 individuals qualified to conduct program assessments under s.
746 1002.82 (2) (n).

747 (4) (a) Beginning with the 2023-2024 ~~2022-2023~~ program
748 year, the department shall adopt a methodology for calculating
749 each private prekindergarten provider's and public school
750 provider's performance metric, which must be based on a

751 combination of the following:

752 1. Program assessment composite scores under subsection
753 (2), which must be weighted at no less than 50 percent.

754 2. Learning gains operationalized as change-in-ability
755 scores from the initial and final progress monitoring results
756 described in subsection (1).

757 3. Norm-referenced developmental learning outcomes
758 described in subsection (1).

759 (d) The methodology shall include a statistical latent
760 profile analysis that has been conducted by an independent
761 expert with experience in relevant quantitative analysis, early
762 childhood assessment, and designing state-level accountability
763 systems. The independent expert shall be identified through
764 competitive procurement before the 2023-2024 program year and
765 retained through the 2025-2026 program year and ~~developed by the~~
766 ~~department~~ that shall produce a limited number of performance
767 metric profiles which summarize the profiles of all sites that
768 must be used to inform the following designations:
769 "unsatisfactory," "emerging proficiency," "proficient," "highly
770 proficient," and "excellent" or comparable terminology
771 determined by the office which may not include letter grades.

772 (f) The department shall adopt procedures to annually
773 calculate each private prekindergarten provider's and public
774 school's performance metric, based on the methodology adopted in
775 paragraphs (a) and (b), and assign a designation under paragraph

776 (d). Beginning with the 2024-2025 ~~2023-2024~~ program year, each
777 private prekindergarten provider or public school shall be
778 assigned a designation within 45 days after the conclusion of
779 the school-year Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program
780 delivered by all participating private prekindergarten providers
781 or public schools and within 45 days after the conclusion of the
782 summer Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program delivered by
783 all participating private prekindergarten providers or public
784 schools.

785 Section 10. Paragraphs (j), (l), and (q) of subsection (2)
786 of section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

787 1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.—

788 (2) The department shall:

789 (j) Monitor the alignment and consistency of the standards
790 and benchmarks developed and adopted by the department that
791 address the age-appropriate progress of children in the
792 development of school readiness skills. The standards for
793 children from birth to kindergarten entry in the school
794 readiness program must be aligned with the performance standards
795 adopted for children in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education
796 Program and must address the following domains:

- 797 1. Approaches to learning.
- 798 2. Cognitive development and general knowledge.
- 799 3. Numeracy, language, and communication.
- 800 4. Physical development.

801 5. Executive-functioning ~~Self-regulation~~.

802 (1) Contract for a voluntary open-source school readiness
 803 curriculum that meets the performance standards pursuant to
 804 paragraph (j) that shall:

805 1. Be available on the Internet at no cost.

806 2. Contain resources that support the use of the
 807 curriculum.

808 3. Contain resources for parent engagement.

809 4. Consist of aligned and effective professional
 810 development resources necessary to implement the curriculum with
 811 fidelity ~~Adopt a list of approved curricula that meet the~~
 812 ~~performance standards for the school readiness program and~~
 813 ~~establish a process for the review and approval of a provider's~~
 814 ~~curriculum that meets the performance standards.~~

815 (q) Contract for ~~Establish~~ a single statewide information
 816 system that shall be used to manage all early learning programs,
 817 including the child care licensing and child care training
 818 within the Child Care Services Program Office of the Department
 819 of Children and Families and each coalition must use for the
 820 purposes of managing the single point of entry, tracking
 821 children's progress, coordinating services among stakeholders,
 822 determining eligibility of children, tracking child attendance,
 823 and streamlining administrative processes for providers and
 824 early learning coalitions. By October 1, 2024 ~~July 1, 2019~~, the
 825 system, subject to ss. 1002.72 and 1002.97, shall:

826 1. Allow a parent to find early learning programs online,
 827 including the performance profile under s. 1002.92 (3) (a).

828 ~~2.1.~~ Allow a parent to monitor the development of his or
 829 her child as the child moves among programs within the state.

830 ~~3.2.~~ Enable analysis at the state, regional, and local
 831 level to measure child growth over time, program impact, and
 832 quality improvement and investment decisions.

833 Section 11. Subsection (6) of section 1002.83, Florida
 834 Statutes, is amended to read:

835 1002.83 Early learning coalitions.—

836 (6) An ~~The~~ early learning coalition may appoint additional
 837 at-large members ~~who must be private sector business members,~~
 838 either for-profit or nonprofit, who do not have, and none of
 839 whose relatives as defined in s. 112.3143 has, a substantial
 840 financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary
 841 Prekindergarten Education Program created under part V of this
 842 chapter or the school readiness program. The department shall
 843 establish criteria for appointing private sector business
 844 members. These criteria must include standards for determining
 845 whether a member or relative has a substantial financial
 846 interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary
 847 Prekindergarten Education Program or the school readiness
 848 program.

849 Section 12. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
 850 1002.89, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

851 1002.89 School readiness program; funding.—

852 (4) COST REQUIREMENTS.—Costs shall be kept to the minimum
 853 necessary for the efficient and effective administration of the
 854 school readiness program with the highest priority of
 855 expenditure being direct services for eligible children.
 856 However, no more than 5 percent of the funds allocated in
 857 paragraph (1)(a) may be used for administrative costs and no
 858 more than 22 percent of the funds allocated in paragraph (1)(a)
 859 may be used in any fiscal year for any combination of
 860 administrative costs, quality activities, and nondirect services
 861 as follows:

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

865 1. Developing, establishing, expanding, operating, and
 866 coordinating resource and referral programs specifically related
 867 to the provision of comprehensive consumer education to parents
 868 and the public to promote informed child care choices specified
 869 in 45 C.F.R. s. 98.33.

870 2. Awarding grants and providing financial support to
 871 school readiness program providers and their staff to assist
 872 them in meeting applicable state requirements for the program
 873 assessment required under s. 1002.82(2)(n), child care
 874 performance standards, implementing the developmentally
 875 appropriate curriculum commissioned under s. 1002.82(2)(l)

876 ~~curricula~~ and related classroom resources that support parent
877 engagement curricula, providing literacy supports, providing
878 reimbursements for background screenings, and providing
879 continued professional development through the Teacher Education
880 and Compensation Helps (TEACH) Scholarship Program under s.
881 1002.95 and training aligned to the early learning professional
882 development standards and career pathways under s. 1002.995 and
883 ~~training~~. Any grants awarded pursuant to this subparagraph shall
884 comply with ss. 215.971 and 287.058.

885 3. Providing training aligned with the early learning
886 professional development standards and career pathways under s.
887 1002.995, technical assistance, and financial support to school
888 readiness program providers, staff, and parents on standards,
889 child screenings, child assessments, child development research
890 and best practices, developmentally appropriate curriculum
891 commissioned under s. 1002.82 (2) (1), executive functioning
892 ~~curricula, character development~~, teacher-child interactions,
893 age-appropriate discipline practices, health and safety,
894 nutrition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, the
895 recognition of communicable diseases, and child abuse detection,
896 prevention, and reporting.

897 4. Providing, from among the funds provided for the
898 activities described in subparagraphs 1.-3., adequate funding
899 for infants and toddlers as necessary to meet federal
900 requirements related to expenditures for quality activities for

901 infant and toddler care.

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

905 6. Responding to Warm-Line requests by providers and
 906 parents, including providing developmental and health screenings
 907 to school readiness program children.

908 Section 13. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
 909 1002.945, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

910 1002.945 Gold Seal Quality Care Program.—

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

915 (b) The child care provider must not have had three or
 916 more of the same class II violations, as defined by rule of the
 917 Department of Children and Families, within the 2 years
 918 preceding its application for designation as a Gold Seal Quality
 919 Care provider. Commission of three or more of the same class II
 920 violations within a 2-year period shall be grounds for
 921 termination of the designation as a Gold Seal Quality Care
 922 provider until the provider has no class II violations that are
 923 the same for a period of 1 year.

924 Section 14. Section 1002.95, Florida Statutes, is amended
 925 to read:

926 1002.95 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)
 927 Scholarship Program.—

928 (1) The department may contract for the administration of
 929 the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) Scholarship
 930 Program, which provides educational scholarships to instructors
 931 ~~caregivers~~ and administrators of early childhood programs,
 932 family day care homes, and large family child care homes. The
 933 goal of the program is to increase the education and training
 934 for instructors ~~caregivers~~, increase the compensation for child
 935 instructors ~~caregivers~~ who complete the program requirements,
 936 and reduce the rate of participant turnover in the field of
 937 early childhood education.

938 (2) An early learning coalition may support the Teacher
 939 Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) Scholarship Program for
 940 instructors by reimbursing child care providers for the child
 941 care provider copayment portion of the program for each
 942 instructor who completes a child development associate
 943 credential in his or her service area which shall be funded in
 944 accordance with s. 1002.89(4)(b).

945 (3)-(2) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules as
 946 necessary to administer this section.

947 Section 15. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section
 948 1008.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

949 1008.25 Public school student progression; student
 950 support; coordinated screening and progress monitoring;

951 reporting requirements.—

952 (5) READING DEFICIENCY AND PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—

953 (b) A Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program student
 954 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills
 955 in accordance with the standards under s. 1002.67(1)(a) and
 956 based upon the results of the administration of the final
 957 coordinated screening and progress monitoring under subsection
 958 (8) shall be ~~referred to the local school district and may be~~
 959 eligible to receive intensive reading interventions before
 960 participating in kindergarten. Such intensive reading
 961 interventions shall be paid for using funds from the district's
 962 evidence-based reading instruction allocation in accordance with
 963 s. 1011.62(8).

964 Section 16. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
 965 39.101, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

966 39.101 Central abuse hotline.—The central abuse hotline is
 967 the first step in the safety assessment and investigation
 968 process.

969 (4) USE OF INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CENTRAL ABUSE
 970 HOTLINE.—

971 (a) Information received by the central abuse hotline may
 972 not be used for employment screening, except as provided in s.
 973 39.202(2)(a) and (h) or s. 402.302(16) ~~s. 402.302(15)~~.

974 Section 17. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 1002.57,
 975 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

976 | 1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.—

977 | (3) The prekindergarten director credential must meet or
 978 | exceed the requirements of the Department of Children and
 979 | Families for the child care facility director credential under
 980 | s. 402.305(2)(f) ~~s. 402.305(2)(g)~~, and successful completion of
 981 | the prekindergarten director credential satisfies these
 982 | requirements for the child care facility director credential.

983 | (4) The department shall, to the maximum extent
 984 | practicable, award credit to a person who successfully completes
 985 | the child care facility director credential under s.
 986 | 402.305(2)(f) ~~s. 402.305(2)(g)~~ for those requirements of the
 987 | prekindergarten director credential which are duplicative of
 988 | requirements for the child care facility director credential.

989 | Section 18. Subsection (1) of section 1002.59, Florida
 990 | Statutes, is amended to read:

991 | 1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards
 992 | training courses.—

993 | (1) The department, in collaboration with the Just Read,
 994 | Florida! Office, shall adopt minimum standards for courses in
 995 | emergent literacy for prekindergarten instructors. Each course
 996 | must comprise 5 clock hours and provide instruction in
 997 | strategies and techniques to address the age-appropriate
 998 | progress of prekindergarten students in developing emergent
 999 | literacy skills, including oral communication, knowledge of
 1000 | print and letters, phonological and phonemic awareness, and

1001 vocabulary and comprehension development, consistent with the
 1002 evidence-based content and strategies identified pursuant to s.
 1003 1001.215(8). The course standards must be reviewed as part of
 1004 any review of subject coverage or endorsement requirements in
 1005 the elementary, reading, and exceptional student educational
 1006 areas conducted pursuant to s. 1012.586. Each course must also
 1007 provide resources containing strategies that allow students with
 1008 disabilities and other special needs to derive maximum benefit
 1009 from the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Successful
 1010 completion of an emergent literacy training course approved
 1011 under this section satisfies requirements for approved training
 1012 in early literacy and language development under ss.
 1013 402.305(2)(e)4., 402.313(6), and 402.3131(5) ~~ss.~~
 1014 ~~402.305(2)(e)5., 402.313(6), and 402.3131(5).~~

1015 Section 19. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.