

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to early learning; amending s.  
 3           402.305, F.S.; requiring child care personnel to  
 4           submit proof of compliance with certain training and  
 5           credentialing requirements to the Department of  
 6           Children and Families for publishing on the Early  
 7           Learning Workforce Registry; requiring the adoption of  
 8           rules; amending s. 402.3055, F.S.; requiring each  
 9           child care facility to submit its child care personnel  
 10          roster to the department for publishing on the  
 11          registry; requiring the adoption of rules; amending s.  
 12          1002.55, F.S.; revising minimum requirements for  
 13          prekindergarten instructors employed by a private  
 14          prekindergarten provider; conforming provisions;  
 15          amending ss. 1002.61 and 1007.23, F.S.; conforming  
 16          cross-references; providing an effective date.

17  
 18   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 20           Section 1. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (2) of  
 21           section 402.305, Florida Statutes, to read:

22           402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

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

25           (g) Effective upon implementation of the Early Learning

26 | Workforce Registry by the Office of Early Learning, child care  
27 | personnel shall submit proof of their compliance with the  
28 | training and credentialing requirements in this section to the  
29 | department for publishing on the registry, in accordance with  
30 | rules adopted by the department in coordination with the office.

31 | Section 2. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (1) of  
32 | section 402.3055, Florida Statutes, to read:

33 | 402.3055 Child care personnel requirements.—

34 | (1) REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD CARE PERSONNEL.—

35 | (c) Effective upon implementation of the Early Learning  
36 | Workforce Registry by the Office of Early Learning, each child  
37 | care facility shall submit its roster of child care personnel to  
38 | the department for publishing on the registry, in accordance  
39 | with rules adopted by the department in coordination with the  
40 | office.

41 | Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (3) and subsection  
42 | (4) of section 1002.55, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

43 | 1002.55 School-year prekindergarten program delivered by  
44 | private prekindergarten providers.—

45 | (3) To be eligible to deliver the prekindergarten program,  
46 | a private prekindergarten provider must meet each of the  
47 | following requirements:

48 | (c) The private prekindergarten provider must have, for  
49 | each prekindergarten class of 11 children or fewer, at least one  
50 | prekindergarten instructor who meets each of the following

51 requirements:

52 1. The prekindergarten instructor must hold an associate's  
53 or higher degree in child development.

54 ~~2.1.~~ The prekindergarten instructor must hold, at a  
55 minimum, one of the following credentials:

56 a. A child development associate credential issued by the  
57 National Credentialing Program of the Council for Professional  
58 Recognition; or

59 b. A credential approved by the Department of Children and  
60 Families as being equivalent to or greater than the credential  
61 described in sub-subparagraph a.

62  
63 The Department of Children and Families may adopt rules under  
64 ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which provide criteria and procedures  
65 for approving equivalent credentials under sub-subparagraph b.

66 ~~3.2.~~ The prekindergarten instructor must successfully  
67 complete an emergent literacy training course and a student  
68 performance standards training course approved by the office as  
69 meeting or exceeding the minimum standards adopted under s.  
70 1002.59. The requirement for completion of the standards  
71 training course shall take effect July 1, 2014, and the course  
72 shall be available online.

73 4. The prekindergarten instructor must successfully  
74 complete a minimum of 20 clock hours of professional development  
75 training.

76 (4) A prekindergarten instructor, in lieu of the minimum  
 77 credentials and courses required under paragraph (3)(c), may  
 78 hold one of the following educational credentials:

79 (a) A bachelor's or higher degree in early childhood  
 80 education, prekindergarten or primary education, preschool  
 81 education, or family and consumer science;

82 (b) A bachelor's or higher degree in elementary education,  
 83 if the prekindergarten instructor has been certified to teach  
 84 children any age from birth through 6th grade, regardless of  
 85 whether the instructor's educator certificate is current, and if  
 86 the instructor is not ineligible to teach in a public school  
 87 because his or her educator certificate is suspended or revoked;

88 ~~(c) An associate's or higher degree in child development;~~

89 (c)-(d) An associate's or higher degree in an unrelated  
 90 field, at least 6 credit hours in early childhood education or  
 91 child development, and at least 480 hours of experience in  
 92 teaching or providing child care services for children any age  
 93 from birth through 8 years of age; or

94 (d)-(e) An educational credential approved by the  
 95 department as being equivalent to or greater than an educational  
 96 credential described in this subsection. The department may  
 97 adopt criteria and procedures for approving equivalent  
 98 educational credentials under this paragraph.

99 Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 1002.61, Florida  
 100 Statutes, is amended to read:

101           1002.61 Summer prekindergarten program delivered by public  
102 schools and private prekindergarten providers.—

103           (4) Notwithstanding ss. 1002.55(3)(c)2. ~~1002.55(3)(c)1.~~  
104 and 1002.63(4), each public school and private prekindergarten  
105 provider must have, for each prekindergarten class, at least one  
106 prekindergarten instructor who is a certified teacher or holds  
107 one of the educational credentials specified in s. 1002.55(4)(a)  
108 or (b). As used in this subsection, the term "certified teacher"  
109 means a teacher holding a valid Florida educator certificate  
110 under s. 1012.56 who has the qualifications required by the  
111 district school board to instruct students in the summer  
112 prekindergarten program. In selecting instructional staff for  
113 the summer prekindergarten program, each school district shall  
114 give priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in  
115 early childhood education.

116           Section 5. Subsection (6) of section 1007.23, Florida  
117 Statutes, is amended to read:

118           1007.23 Statewide articulation agreement.—

119           (6) The articulation agreement must guarantee the  
120 articulation of 9 credit hours toward a postsecondary degree in  
121 early childhood education for programs approved by the State  
122 Board of Education and the Board of Governors which:

123           (a) Award a child development associate credential issued  
124 by the National Credentialing Program of the Council for  
125 Professional Recognition or award a credential approved under s.

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126 | 1002.55(3)(c)2.b. ~~1002.55(3)(c)1.b.~~ or s. 402.305(3)(c) as being  
127 | equivalent to the child development associate credential; and  
128 | (b) Include training in emergent literacy which meets or  
129 | exceeds the minimum standards for training courses for  
130 | prekindergarten instructors of the Voluntary Prekindergarten  
131 | Education Program in s. 1002.59.

132 | Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.