HB 1437 2024

1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to child care services; amending s. 3 1002.82, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education, 4 subject to legislative appropriation, to establish a 5 program to provide vouchers for child care services to 6 children within a specified age range whose parents 7 meet a specified income limitation; authorizing the 8 State Board of Education to adopt rules; providing an 9 effective date. 10 11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 12

Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 1002.82, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.82 Department of Education; powers and duties.-

(2) The department shall:

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- (b) Preserve parental choice by:
- 1. Allowing Permitting parents to choose from a variety of child care categories, including center-based care, family child care, and informal child care to the extent authorized in the state's Child Care and Development Fund Plan as approved by the United States Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to 45 C.F.R. s. 98.18. Care and curriculum by a faith-based provider may not be limited or excluded in any of these categories.

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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2. Subject to the appropriation of funds by the
Legislature, establishing a program through which a parent may
obtain a voucher to subsidize all or a portion of the costs of
child care services for a child older than 18 months of age but
younger than 4 years of age. Only parents whose income is equal
to or below 200 percent of the then-current federal poverty
guidelines prescribed for the household size of the applicant by
the United States Department of Health and Human Services may
participate in the program. The State Board of Education may
adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement
this subparagraph.
Soction 2 This act shall take offect Tuly 1 2024