

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1114

An act relating to the WAGES Program; amending s. 414.026, F.S.; requiring that the WAGES Program State Board of Directors approve any WAGES-related proposed administrative rules; requiring collaboration with the WAGES State Board concerning other actions by the Workforce Development Board of Enterprise Florida, Inc., and state agencies; extending the existence of the WAGES Program State Board of Directors; amending s. 414.028, F.S.; revising requirements for a member of a local WAGES coalition in the case of a conflict of interest; providing requirements for disclosing any such conflict; providing for certain nonvoting members to be appointed to a local coalition; requiring a local coalition to deliver certain services under the WAGES Program; providing for staff support for local coalitions; requiring that the program and financial plan developed by a local WAGES coalition include provisions for providing services for victims of domestic violence and describing development of the plan; creating s. 414.030, F.S.; creating a process for fostering the development or completion of certain WAGES Program Employment Projects, providing duties and requirements; amending s. 414.065, F.S.; deleting provisions that require an employer to repay certain supplements or incentives under specified circumstances; creating a WAGES training bonus to be paid to an employer who hires certain program participants; providing protection for current employees; providing an exception from the work requirements for certain individuals at risk of domestic violence; providing an exception for a specified period for certain individuals impaired by past incidents of domestic violence, under certain circumstances; amending s. 414.105, F.S.; providing that an individual who cares for a disabled family member is exempt from certain time limitations; permitting domestic violence victims to be granted hardship exemptions not subject to certain percentage limitations, under specified circumstances; providing legislative intent; amending s. 414.0252, F.S.; providing definitions; amending s. 414.095, F.S.; allowing certain individuals to qualify as noncitizens for purpose of the WAGES Program, allowing WAGES participants to receive information regarding domestic violence support services, providing that risk of domestic violence is good cause for not cooperating with paternity establishment; amending s. 414.115, F.S.; providing that limited temporary cash assistance provisions do not apply to certain circumstances resulting from rape, incest, or sexual exploitation; amending s. 234.01, F.S.; authorizing school districts to provide transportation for WAGES participants; amending s. 234.211, F.S.; providing for reimbursement of school districts; amending s. 341.041, F.S.; establishing responsibilities of the Department of Transportation with respect to transit services for WAGES participants; amending s. 341.052, F.S.; relating to duties of public transit block grant recipients to coordinate with local WAGES coalitions regarding transportation services; deleting duplicative provisions; amending s.

414.026, F.S.; revising membership of the WAGES Program State Board of Directors; amending s. 414.20, F.S.; clarifying transportation options available to local WAGES coalitions to assist WAGES participants; amending s. 414.25, F.S.; extending the exemption from leased real property requirements for the WAGES Program to June 30, 1999; creating s. 414.225, F.S.; providing for the provision of transitional transportation for former WAGES participants; amending s. 427.013, F.S.; providing for the duties of the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged regarding WAGES transportation; amending s. 427.0155, F.S.; providing for the duties of community transportation coordinators regarding WAGES transportation; amending s. 427.0157, F.S.; providing for the duties of the local coordinating boards regarding WAGES transportation; amending s. 212.096, F.S.; expanding enterprise zone sales tax credit to JTPA or WAGES Program participants not residing in an enterprise zone; requiring documentation; amending s. 220.03, F.S.; expanding enterprise zone corporate tax credit to JTPA or WAGES Program participants not residing in an enterprise zone; amending s. 220.181, F.S.; requiring documentation; amending s. 288.047, F.S.; creating a Quick-response Training Program for WAGES participants; providing requirements; creating s. 414.155, F.S.; providing a relocation assistance program for families receiving or eligible to receive WAGES Program assistance; providing responsibilities of the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Labor and Employment Security; providing for a relocation plan and for monitoring of the relocation; requiring agreements restricting application for temporary cash assistance for a specified period; providing exceptions; requiring repayment of temporary cash assistance provided under certain circumstances, and reduced eligibility for future assistance; providing authority for rules; providing appropriations;

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

Section 1. Present subsection (4) of section 414.026, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (6) and amended, and new subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

414.026 WAGES Program State Board of Directors.—

(4) The WAGES Program State Board of Directors must approve the WAGES State Plan, the operating budget and any amendments thereto, and any WAGES-related proposed administrative rules. In addition, state agencies charged by law with implementation of the WAGES Program and the Workforce Development Board of Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall collaborate with the staff of the WAGES Program State Board of Directors on all WAGES-related policies, requests for proposals, and related directives.

(5)(4) This section expires June 30, 2002 ~~1999~~, and shall be reviewed by the Legislature prior to that date. In its review, the Legislature shall assess the status of the WAGES Program and shall determine if the responsibility for administering the program should be transferred to other state agencies.

Section 2. Section 414.028, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

414.028 Local WAGES coalitions.—The WAGES Program State Board of Directors shall create and charter local WAGES coalitions to plan and coordinate the delivery of services under the WAGES Program at the local level. The boundaries of the service area for a local WAGES coalition shall conform to the boundaries of the service area for the regional workforce development board established under the Enterprise Florida workforce development board. The local delivery of services under the WAGES Program shall be coordinated, to the maximum extent possible, with the local services and activities of the local service providers designated by the regional workforce development boards.

(1)(a) Each local WAGES coalition must have a minimum of 11 members, of which at least one-half must be from the business community. The composition of the coalition membership must generally reflect the racial, gender, and ethnic diversity of the community as a whole. All members shall be appointed to 3-year terms. The membership of each coalition must include:

1. Representatives of the principal entities that provide funding for the employment, education, training, and social service programs that are operated in the service area, including, but not limited to, representatives of local government, the regional workforce development board, and the United Way.

2. A representative of the health and human services board.

3. A representative of a community development board.

4. Three representatives of the business community who represent a diversity of sizes of businesses.

5. Representatives of other local planning, coordinating, or service-delivery entities.

6. A representative of a grassroots community or economic development organization that serves the poor of the community.

(b) A person may be a member of a local WAGES coalition or a combined WAGES coalition as provided in subsection (2) regardless of whether the member, or an organization represented by a member, could benefit financially from transactions of the coalition. However, if the coalition enters into a contract with an organization or individual represented on the coalition, the contract must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the entire board, and the board member who could benefit financially from the transaction must abstain from voting. A board member must disclose any such conflict in a manner that is approved by the WAGES Program State Board of Directors and is consistent with the procedures outlined in s. 112.3143. A representative of an agency or entity that could benefit financially from funds appropriated under the WAGES Program may not be a member of a local WAGES coalition.

(c) A member of the board of a public or private educational institution may not serve as a member of a local WAGES coalition.

(d) A representative of any county or municipal governing body that elects to provide services through the local WAGES coalition shall be an ex officio, nonvoting member of the coalition.

(e) A representative of a county health department or a representative of a healthy start coalition shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the coalition.

(f) This subsection does not prevent a local WAGES coalition from extending regular, voting membership to not more than one representative of a county health department and not more than one representative of a healthy start coalition.

~~(2) A local WAGES coalition and a regional workforce development board may be combined into one board if the membership complies with subsection (1), and if the membership of the combined board meets the requirements of Pub. L. No. 97-300, the federal Job Training Partnership Act, as amended, and with any law delineating the membership requirements for the regional workforce development boards. Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(b), in a region in which the duties of the two boards are combined, a person may be a member of the WAGES coalition even if the member, or the member's principal, could benefit financially from transactions of the coalition. However, members must recuse themselves from voting on all matters from which they or their principals could benefit financially. Failure to recuse on any such vote will constitute grounds for immediate removal from the local WAGES coalition.~~

(3) The statewide implementation plan prepared by the WAGES Program State Board of Directors shall prescribe and publish the process for chartering the local WAGES coalitions.

(4) Each local WAGES coalition shall perform the planning, coordination, and oversight functions specified in the statewide implementation plan, including, but not limited to:

(a) Developing a program and financial plan to achieve the performance outcomes specified by the WAGES Program State Board of Directors for current and potential program participants in the service area. The plan must reflect the needs of service areas for seed money to create programs that assist children of WAGES participants. The plan must also include provisions for providing services for victims of domestic violence.

(b) Developing a funding strategy to implement the program and financial plan which incorporates resources from all principal funding sources.

(c) Identifying employment, service, and support resources in the community which may be used to fulfill the performance outcomes of the WAGES Program.

(d) In cooperation with the regional workforce development board, coordinating the implementation of one-stop career centers.

(e) Advising the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Labor and Employment Security with respect to the competitive procurement of services under the WAGES Program.

(f) Selecting an entity to administer the program and financial plan, such as a unit of a political subdivision within the service area, a not-for-profit private organization or corporation, or any other entity agreed upon by the local WAGES coalition.

(g) Developing a plan for services for victims of domestic violence.

1. The WAGES Program State Board of Directors shall specify requirements for the local plan, including:

a. Criteria for determining eligibility for exceptions to state work requirements;

b. The programs and services to be offered to victims of domestic violence;

c. Time limits for exceptions to program requirements, which may not result in an adult participant exceeding the federal time limit for exceptions or the state lifetime benefit limit that the participant would otherwise be entitled to receive; and

d. An annual report on domestic violence, including the progress made in reducing domestic violence as a barrier to self-sufficiency among WAGES participants, local policies and procedures for granting exceptions and exemptions from program requirements due to domestic violence, and the number and percentage of cases in which such exceptions and exemptions are granted.

2. Each local WAGES coalition plan must specify provisions for coordinating and, where appropriate, delivering services, including:

a. Provisions for the local coalition to coordinate with law enforcement agencies and social service agencies and organizations that provide services and protection to victims of domestic violence;

b. Provisions for allowing participants access to domestic violence support services and ensuring that WAGES participants are aware of domestic violence shelters, hotlines, and other domestic violence services and policies;

c. Designation of the agency that is responsible for determining eligibility for exceptions from program requirements due to domestic violence;

d. Provisions that require each individual who is granted an exemption from program requirements due to domestic violence to participate in a program that prepares the individual for self-sufficiency and safety; and

e. Where possible and necessary, provisions for job assignments and transportation arrangements that take maximum advantage of opportunities to preserve the safety of the victim of domestic violence and the victim's dependents.

(5) By October 1, 1998, local WAGES coalitions shall deliver through one-stop career centers, the full continuum of services provided under the WAGES Program, including services that are provided at the point of application. The State WAGES Board may direct the Department of Labor and

Employment Security to provide such services to WAGES participants if a local WAGES coalition is unable to provide services due to decertification. Local WAGES coalitions may not determine an individual's eligibility for temporary cash assistance and all education and training shall be provided through agreements with regional workforce development boards. The local WAGES coalitions shall develop a transition plan to be approved by the WAGES Program State Board of Directors. Should career service employees of the Department of Labor and Employment Security be subject to layoff due to the local WAGES coalitions taking over the delivery of such services, such employees shall be given priority consideration for employment by the local WAGES coalitions. The local coalition's transition plan shall provide for the utilization of space leased by the Department of Labor and Employment Security for WAGES service functions. By October 1, 1998, the coalition may have negotiated and entered into new lease agreements or sub-leased for said space from the Department of Labor and Employment Security. In the event the coalition does not utilize the Department of Labor and Employment Security leased space, the Department of Labor and Employment Security shall not be obligated to pay under any lease agreement for WAGES services entered into by the Department since July 1, 1996.

(6)(5) The WAGES Program State Board of Directors may not approve the program and financial plan of a local coalition unless the plan provides a teen pregnancy prevention component that includes, but is not necessarily limited to, a plan for implementing the Florida Education Now and Babies Later (ENABL) program under s. 411.242 and the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Community Initiative within each county segment of the service area in which the teen childhood birth rate is higher than the state average. Each local WAGES coalition is authorized to fund community-based welfare prevention and reduction initiatives that increase the support provided by noncustodial parents to their welfare-dependent children and are consistent with program and financial guidelines developed by the WAGES Program State Board of Directors and the Commission on Responsible Fatherhood. These initiatives may include, but are not limited to, improved paternity establishment, work activities for noncustodial parents, and programs aimed at decreasing out-of-wedlock pregnancies, encouraging the involvement of fathers with their children, and increasing child-support payments.

(7)(6) At the option of the local WAGES coalition, local employees of the department and the Department of Labor and Employment Security shall provide staff support for the local WAGES coalitions. At the option of the local WAGES coalition, Staff support may be provided by another agency, or entity, or by contract if it can be provided at no cost to the state and if the support is not provided by an agency or other entity that could benefit financially from funds appropriated to implement the WAGES Program.

(8)(7) There shall be no liability on the part of, and no cause of action of any nature shall arise against, any member of a local WAGES coalition or its employees or agents for any lawful action taken by them in the performance of their powers and duties under this section and s. 414.029.

Section 3. Section 414.030, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

414.030 WAGES Program Employment Projects.—

(1) The Legislature finds that the success of the WAGES Program depends upon the existence of sufficient employment opportunities compatible with the education and skill levels of participants in the WAGES Program. The Legislature further finds that extraordinary assistance may need to be granted for certain economic development projects that can have a great impact on the employment of WAGES participants. It is the intent of the Legislature to authorize the Governor and local governments to marshal state and local resources in a coordinated and timely manner to foster the development and completion of economic development projects that have been identified as having a great impact on the employment of WAGES participants.

(2) By August 1 of each year, each local city and county economic development organizations in consultation with local WAGES coalitions, shall identify economic development projects that can have the greatest impact on employing WAGES participants in their areas. Each local economic development organization shall provide a prioritized list of no more than 5 such projects to Enterprise Florida, Inc., by August 1 of each year. The organizations shall identify local resources that are available to foster the development and completion of each project.

(3)(a) By September 1 of each year, Enterprise Florida, Inc., in consultation with the state WAGES Board shall review and prioritize the list of projects identified pursuant to subsection (2) using the following criteria:

1. Areas with a high proportion of families who had already received cash assistance in three out of the previous five years at the time their time limit was established;

2. Areas with a high proportion of families subject to the WAGES time limit headed by a parent who was under age 24 at the time the time limit was established and who lacked high school or GED completion;

3. Areas with a high proportion of families subject to the time limit who have used all of the available months of cash assistance since October 1996;

4. Areas with a low ratio of new jobs per WAGES participant;

5. Areas with a low ratio of job openings requiring less than a high school degree per WAGES participant;

6. Areas with a high proportion of families subject to the time limit who are either within six months of the time limit or are receiving cash assistance under a period of hardship extension to the time limit;

7. Areas with unusually high unemployment; and

8. Areas identified as labor surplus areas using the criteria established by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.

(b) To the greatest extent possible, Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall foster the development or completion of the projects identified pursuant to para-

graph (a) using existing state and local resources under the control of Enterprise Florida, Inc. To the extent that such projects cannot be developed or completed from resources available to Enterprise Florida, Inc., may identify and prioritize no more than 10 projects, of which no more than 3 may be located in Dade County, that need extraordinary state and local assistance. Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall provide the list of projects needing extraordinary assistance to the Governor and each WAGES Program Employment Project Coordinator designated pursuant to subsection (4) by September 1 of each year.

(4)(a) By July 1, 1998, the heads of the Departments of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Labor and Employment Security, Community Affairs, Children and Family Services, Revenue, Business and Professional Regulation, Management Services, Military Affairs, Transportation, and Environmental Protection, and the Comptroller; the Auditor General; the executive director of each water management district; and the heads of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development, Enterprise Florida, Inc., Institute of Food and Agricultural Science, the State Board of Community Colleges, the Division of Workforce Development of the Department of Education, State University System, and the Office of Planning and Budgeting shall select from within such organizations a person to be designated as the WAGES Program Employment Project Coordinator.

(b) By October 1 of each year, each WAGES Program Employment Project Coordinator shall determine what resources are available at the organization to foster the development and completion of the economic development projects received pursuant to subsection (3). Each coordinator shall provide this determination to the Governor by October 1 of each year.

(5)(a) By October 15 of each year, the Governor may, by executive order, designate these projects as WAGES Program Employment Projects, and direct the agencies to use the resources identified pursuant to subsection (4) to develop or complete such projects. The order shall direct such agencies to contract with the appropriate local WAGES coalition to develop or complete such projects.

(b) Notwithstanding the eligibility provisions of s. 403.973, the Governor may waive such eligibility requirements by executive order for projects that have been identified as needing expedited permitting.

(c) To the extent that resources identified pursuant to subsection (4) have been appropriated by the Legislature for a specific purpose that does not allow for the expenditure of such resources on the projects, the Governor may use the budget amendment process in chapter 216 to request that these resources be released to the Governor's Office to accomplish the development or completion of the project.

(d) Any executive order issued by the Governor pursuant to this section shall expire within 90 days, unless renewed for an additional 60 days by the Governor. However, no executive order may be issued by the Governor pursuant to this section for a period in excess of 150 days.

(6) Each local WAGES coalition with jurisdiction over an area where a WAGES Program Employment Project has been designated by the Governor pursuant to subsection (5) shall enter into a contract with the appropriate local, state, or private entities to ensure that the project is developed and completed. Such contracts may include, but are not limited to, contracts with applicable state agencies, and businesses to provide training, education, and employment opportunities for WAGES participants.

(7) By March 15 of each year, Enterprise Florida, Inc., shall submit to the state WAGES Board, the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Minority Leader, and the House Minority Leader a complete and detailed report that includes, but is not limited to, a description of the activities, expenditures, and projects undertaken pursuant to this section, and a description of what, if any, legislative action that may be necessary.

(8)(a) The Auditor General may, pursuant to his or her own authority or at the direction of the Legislature, conduct a financial audit of the expenditure of resources pursuant to this section.

(b) Prior to the 2000 Regular Session of the Legislature, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, shall conduct a review of the projects developed or completed pursuant to this section. The review shall be comprehensive in its scope, but, at a minimum, must be conducted in a manner as to specifically determine:

1. The impact the provisions contained in this section had on the development and completion of the projects identified pursuant to this section.

2. Whether it would be sound public policy to continue or discontinue to foster the development or completion of projects using the processes provided in this section. The report shall be submitted by January 1, 2000, to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Minority Leader, and the House Minority Leader.

Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsection (7) of section 414.065, Florida Statutes, are amended and subsection (12) is added to that section to read:

414.065 Work requirements.—

(1) WORK ACTIVITIES.—The following activities may be used individually or in combination to satisfy the work requirements for a participant in the WAGES Program:

(b) Subsidized private sector employment.—Subsidized private sector employment is employment in a private for-profit enterprise or a private not-for-profit enterprise which is directly supplemented by federal or state funds. A subsidy may be provided in one or more of the forms listed in this paragraph.

1. Work supplementation.—A work supplementation subsidy diverts a participant's temporary cash assistance under the program to the employer.

The employer must pay the participant wages that equal or exceed the applicable federal minimum wage. Work supplementation may not exceed 6 months. At the end of the supplementation period, the employer is expected to retain the participant as a regular employee without receiving a subsidy for at least 12 months. ~~A~~ The work supplementation agreement may not be continued with any employer who exhibits a pattern of failing to provide participants with continued employment after the period of work supplementation ends must provide that if the employee is dismissed at any time within 12 months after termination of the supplementation period due in any part to loss of the supplement, the employer shall repay some or all of the supplement previously paid as a subsidy to the employer under the WAGES Program.

2. On-the-job training.—On-the-job training is full-time, paid employment in which the employer or an educational institution in cooperation with the employer provides training needed for the participant to perform the skills required for the position. The employer or the educational institution on behalf of the employer receives a subsidy to offset the cost of the training provided to the participant. Upon satisfactory completion of the training, the employer is expected to retain the participant as a regular employee without receiving a subsidy. ~~An~~ The on-the-job training agreement may not be continued with any employer who exhibits a pattern of failing to provide participants with continued employment after the on-the-job training subsidy ends must provide that in the case of dismissal of a participant due to loss of the subsidy, the employer shall repay some or all of the subsidy previously provided by the department and the Department of Labor and Employment Security.

3. Incentive payments.—The department and the Department of Labor and Employment Security may provide additional incentive payments to encourage employers to employ program participants. Incentive payments may include payments to encourage the employment of hard-to-place participants, in which case the amount of the payment shall be weighted proportionally to the extent to which the participant has limitations associated with the long-term receipt of welfare and difficulty in sustaining employment. In establishing incentive payments, the department and the Department of Labor and Employment Security shall consider the extent of prior receipt of welfare, lack of employment experience, lack of education, lack of job skills, and other appropriate factors. A participant who has complied with program requirements and who is approaching the time limit for receiving temporary cash assistance may be defined as “hard-to-place.” Incentive payments may include payments in which an initial payment is made to the employer upon the employment of a participant, and the majority of the incentive payment is made after the employer retains the participant as a full-time employee for at least 12 months. ~~An~~ The incentive agreement may not be continued with any employer who exhibits a pattern of failing to provide participants with continued employment after the incentive payments cease must provide that if the employee is dismissed at any time within 12 months after termination of the incentive payment period due in any part to loss of the incentive, the employer shall repay some or all of the payment previously paid as an incentive to the employer under the WAGES Program.

4. Tax credits.—An employer who employs a program participant may qualify for enterprise zone property tax credits under s. 220.182, the tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses under s. 288.106, or other federal or state tax benefits. The department and the Department of Labor and Employment Security shall provide information and assistance, as appropriate, to use such credits to accomplish program goals.

5. WAGES training bonus.—An employer who hires a WAGES participant who has less than 6 months of eligibility for temporary cash assistance remaining and who pays the participant a wage that precludes the participant's eligibility for temporary cash assistance may receive \$240 for each full month of employment for a period that may not exceed 3 months. An employer who receives a WAGES training bonus for an employee may not receive a work supplementation subsidy for the same employee. Employment is defined as 35 hours per week at a wage of no less than minimum wage.

(7) EXCEPTIONS TO NONCOMPLIANCE PENALTIES.—The situations listed in this subsection shall constitute exceptions to the penalties for noncompliance with participation requirements, except that these situations do not constitute exceptions to the applicable time limit for receipt of temporary cash assistance:

(a) Noncompliance related to child care.—Temporary cash assistance may not be terminated for refusal to participate in work activities if the individual is a single custodial parent caring for a child who has not attained 6 years of age, and the adult proves to the department or to the Department of Labor and Employment Security an inability to obtain needed child care for one or more of the following reasons:

1. Unavailability of appropriate child care within a reasonable distance from the individual's home or worksite.
2. Unavailability or unsuitability of informal child care by a relative or under other arrangements.
3. Unavailability of appropriate and affordable formal child care arrangements.

(b) Noncompliance related to domestic violence.—An individual who is determined to be unable to comply with the work requirements because such compliance would make it probable that the individual would be unable to escape domestic violence shall be exempt from work requirements pursuant to s. 414.028(4)(g). However, the individual shall comply with a plan that specifies alternative requirements that prepare the individual for self-sufficiency while providing for the safety of the individual and the individual's dependents. An exception granted under this paragraph does not constitute an exception to the time limitations on benefits specified under s. 414.105.

(c) Noncompliance related to treatment or remediation of past effects of domestic violence.—An individual who is determined to be unable to comply with the work requirements under this section due to mental or physical

impairment related to past incidents of domestic violence may be exempt from work requirements for a specified period pursuant to s. 414.028(4)(g), except that such individual shall comply with a plan that specifies alternative requirements that prepare the individual for self-sufficiency while providing for the safety of the individual and the individual's dependents. The plan must include counseling or a course of treatment necessary for the individual to resume participation. The need for treatment and the expected duration of such treatment must be verified by a physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459; a psychologist licensed under s. 490.005(1), s. 490.006, or the provision identified as s. 490.013(2) in s. 1, chapter 81-235, Laws of Florida; a therapist as defined in s. 491.003(2) or (6); or a treatment professional who is registered under s. 415.605(1)(g), is authorized to maintain confidentiality under s. 90.5036(1)(d), and has a minimum of 2 years experience at a certified domestic violence center. An exception granted under this paragraph does not constitute an exception from the time limitations on benefits specified under s. 414.105.

(d)(b) Noncompliance related to medical incapacity.—If an individual cannot participate in assigned work activities due to a medical incapacity, the individual may be excepted from the activity for a specific period, except that the individual shall be required to comply with the course of treatment necessary for the individual to resume participation. A participant may not be excused from work activity requirements unless the participant's medical incapacity is verified by a physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, in accordance with procedures established by rule of the Department of Labor and Employment Security.

(e)(c) Other good cause exceptions for noncompliance.—Individuals who are temporarily unable to participate due to circumstances beyond their control may be excepted from the noncompliance penalties. The Department of Labor and Employment Security may define by rule situations that would constitute good cause. These situations must include caring for a disabled family member when the need for the care has been verified and alternate care is not available.

(12) PROTECTION FOR CURRENT EMPLOYEES.—In establishing and contracting for work-experience and community service activities, other work-experience activities, on-the-job training, subsidized employment, and work supplementation under the WAGES Program, an employed worker may not be displaced, either completely or partially. A WAGES participant may not be assigned to an activity or employed in a position if the employer has created the vacancy or terminated an existing employee without good cause in order to fill that position with a WAGES Program participant.

Section 5. Section 414.105, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

414.105 Time limitations of temporary cash assistance.—Unless otherwise expressly provided in this chapter, an applicant or current participant shall receive temporary cash assistance for episodes of not more than 24 cumulative months in any consecutive 60-month period that begins with the first month of participation and for not more than a lifetime cumulative total of 48 months as an adult.

(1) The time limitation for episodes of temporary cash assistance may not exceed 36 cumulative months in any consecutive 72-month period that begins with the first month of participation and may not exceed a lifetime cumulative total of 48 months of temporary cash assistance as an adult, for cases in which the participant:

(a) Has received aid to families with dependent children or temporary cash assistance for any 36 months of the preceding 60 months; or

(b) Is a custodial parent under the age of 24 who:

1. Has not completed a high school education or its equivalent; or
2. Had little or no work experience in the preceding year.

(2) A participant who is not exempt from work activity requirements may earn 1 month of eligibility for extended temporary cash assistance, up to maximum of 12 additional months, for each month in which the participant is fully complying with the work activities of the WAGES Program through unsubsidized private sector employment. The period for which extended temporary cash assistance is granted shall be based upon compliance with WAGES Program requirements beginning October 1, 1996. A participant may not receive temporary cash assistance under this subsection, in combination with other periods of temporary cash assistance for longer than a lifetime limit of 48 months. Hardship exemptions to the time limitations of this chapter shall be limited to 10 percent of participants in the first year of implementation of this chapter, 15 percent of participants in the second year of implementation of this chapter, and 20 percent of participants in all subsequent years. Criteria for hardship exemptions include:

(a) Diligent participation in activities, combined with inability to obtain employment.

(b) Diligent participation in activities, combined with extraordinary barriers to employment, including the conditions which may result in an exemption to work requirements.

(c) Significant barriers to employment, combined with a need for additional time.

(d) Diligent participation in activities and a need by teen parents for an exemption in order to have 24 months of eligibility beyond receipt of the high school diploma or equivalent.

(e) A recommendation of extension for a minor child of a participating family that has reached the end of the eligibility period for temporary cash assistance. The recommendation must be the result of a review which determines that the termination of the child's temporary cash assistance would be likely to result in the child being placed into emergency shelter or foster care. Temporary cash assistance shall be provided through a protective payee. Staff of the Children and ~~Families~~ Family Services Program Office of the department shall conduct all assessments in each case in which it appears a child may require continuation of temporary cash assistance through a protective payee.

At the recommendation of the local WAGES coalition, temporary cash assistance under a hardship exemption for a participant who is eligible for work activities and who is not working shall be reduced by 10 percent. Upon the employment of the participant, full benefits shall be restored.

(3) In addition to the exemptions listed in subsection (2), a victim of domestic violence may be granted a hardship exemption if the effects of such domestic violence delay or otherwise interrupt or adversely affect the individual's participation in the program. Hardship exemptions granted under this subsection shall not be subject to the percentage limitations in subsection (3).

~~(4)~~(3) The department shall establish a procedure for reviewing and approving hardship exemptions, and the local WAGES coalitions may assist in making these determinations. The composition of any review panel must generally reflect the racial, gender, and ethnic diversity of the community as a whole. Members of a review panel shall serve without compensation, but are entitled to receive reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses as provided in s. 112.016.

~~(5)~~(4) The cumulative total of all hardship exemptions may not exceed 12 months, may include reduced benefits at the option of the community review panel, and shall, in combination with other periods of temporary cash assistance as an adult, total no more than 48 months of temporary cash assistance. If an individual fails to comply with program requirements during a hardship exemption period, the hardship exemption shall be removed.

~~(6)~~(5) For individuals who have moved from another state and have legally resided in this state for less than 12 months, the time limitation for temporary cash assistance shall be the shorter of the respective time limitations used in the two states, and months in which temporary cash assistance was received under a block grant program that provided temporary assistance for needy families in any state shall count towards the cumulative 48-month benefit limit for temporary cash assistance.

~~(7)~~(6) For individuals subject to a time limitation under the Family Transition Act of 1993, that time limitation shall continue to apply. Months in which temporary cash assistance was received through the family transition program shall count towards the time limitations under this chapter.

~~(8)~~(7) Except when temporary cash assistance was received through the family transition program, the calculation of the time limitation for temporary cash assistance shall begin with the first month of receipt of temporary cash assistance after the effective date of this act.

~~(9)~~(8) Child-only cases are not subject to time limitations, and temporary cash assistance received while an individual is a minor child shall not count towards time limitations.

~~(10)~~(9) An individual who receives benefits under the Supplemental Security Income program or the Social Security Disability Insurance program is not subject to time limitations.

(11) A person who is totally responsible for the personal care of a disabled family member is not subject to time limitations if the need for the care is verified and alternative care is not available for the family member. The department shall annually evaluate an individual's qualifications for this exemption.

(12)(10) A member of the WAGES Program staff shall interview and assess the employment prospects and barriers of each participant who is within 6 months of reaching the 24-month time limit. The staff member shall assist the participant in identifying actions necessary to become employed prior to reaching the benefit time limit for temporary cash assistance and, if appropriate, shall refer the participant for services that could facilitate employment.

Section 6. Present subsections (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), and (10) of section 414.0252, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), and (12) of that section, respectively, and new subsections (4) and (6) are added to that section, to read:

414.0252 Definitions.—As used in ss. 414.015-414.45, the term:

(4) “Domestic violence” means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense that results in the physical injury or death of one family or household member by another.

(6) “Family or household member” means spouses, former spouses, non-cohabitating partners, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together as if a family or who have resided together in the past as if a family, and persons who have a child in common regardless of whether they have been married or have resided together at any time.

Section 7. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (10) of section 414.095, Florida Statutes, and subsection (3) and paragraph (d) of subsection (15) of that section are amended to read:

414.095 Determining eligibility for the WAGES Program.—

(3) ELIGIBILITY FOR NONCITIZENS.—A “qualified noncitizen” is an individual who is lawfully present in the United States as a refugee or who is granted asylum under ss. 207 and 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, an alien whose deportation is withheld under s. 243(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, or an alien who has been admitted as a permanent resident and meets specific criteria under federal law. In addition, a “qualified noncitizen” includes an individual who has been battered or subject to extreme cruelty in the United States by a spouse or a parent, and has applied for or received protection under the federal Violence Against Women Act of 1994, Pub. L. No. 103-322, if the need for benefits is related to the abuse. A “nonqualified noncitizen” is a nonimmigrant alien, including a tourist, business visitor, foreign student, exchange visitor, temporary worker, or diplomat. In addition, a “nonqualified noncitizen” includes an individual paroled into the United States for less than 1 year. A qualified

noncitizen who is otherwise eligible may receive temporary cash assistance to the extent permitted by federal law. The income or resources of a sponsor and the sponsor's spouse shall be included in determining eligibility to the maximum extent permitted by federal law.

(a) A child born in the United States to an illegal or ineligible alien is eligible for temporary cash assistance under this chapter if the family meets all eligibility requirements.

(b) If the parent may legally work in this country, the parent must participate in the work activity requirements provided in s. 414.065, to the extent permitted under federal law.

(c) The department shall participate in the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program (SAVE) established by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service in order to verify the validity of documents provided by aliens and to verify an alien's eligibility.

(d) The income of an illegal alien or ineligible alien, less a pro rata share for the illegal alien or ineligible alien, counts in determining a family's eligibility to participate in the program.

(e) The entire assets of an ineligible alien or a disqualified individual who is a mandatory member of a family shall be included in determining the family's eligibility.

(10) PARTICIPANT OPPORTUNITIES AND OBLIGATIONS.—An applicant or participant in the WAGES Program has the following opportunities and obligations:

(g) To receive information regarding services available from certified domestic violence centers or organizations that provide counseling and supportive services to individuals who are past or present victims of domestic violence or who are at risk of domestic violence and, upon request, to be referred to such organizations in a manner which protects the individual's confidentiality.

(15) PROHIBITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.—

(d) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, if a parent or caretaker relative without good cause does not cooperate with the state agency responsible for administering the child support enforcement program in establishing, modifying, or enforcing a support order with respect to a child of a teen parent or other family member, or a child of a family member who is in the care of an adult relative, temporary cash assistance to the entire family shall be denied until the state agency indicates that cooperation by the parent or caretaker relative has been satisfactory. To the extent permissible under federal law, a parent or caretaker relative shall not be penalized for failure to cooperate with paternity establishment or with the establishment, modification, or enforcement of a support order when such cooperation could subject an individual to a risk of domestic violence. Such risk shall constitute good cause to the extent permitted by Title IV-D of the Social Security Act, as amended, or other federal law.

Section 8. Subsection (2) of section 414.115, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

414.115 Limited temporary cash assistance for children born to families receiving temporary cash assistance.—

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply:

(a) To a program participant who is a victim of rape or incest if the victim files a police report on the rape or incest within 30 days after the incident;

(b) To a program participant who is confirmed by the Title IV-D child support agency as having been granted an exemption from participating in requirements for the enforcement of child support due to circumstances consistent with the conception of the child as a result of rape, incest, or sexual exploitation. A child for whom an exemption is claimed under this paragraph and for whom an application has been made for a good-cause exemption from the requirements of s. 414.095 shall receive temporary benefits until a determination is made on the application for a good-cause exemption from the requirements of s. 414.095;

~~(c)~~(b) To children who are the firstborn, including all children in the case of multiple birth, of minors included in a temporary cash assistance group who as minors become first-time parents;

~~(d)~~(e) To a child when parental custody has been legally transferred; or

~~(e)~~(d) To a child who is no longer able to live with his or her parents as a result of:

1. The death of the child's parent or parents;

2. The incapacity of the child's parent or parents as documented by a physician, such that the parent or parents are unable to care for the child;

3. Legal transfer of the custody of the child to another individual;

4. Incarceration of the child's parent or parents, except that the child shall not receive temporary cash assistance if a parent is subsequently released and reunited with the child; or

5. A situation in which the child's parent's or parents' institutionalization is expected to be for an extended period, as defined by the department.

Section 9. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (1) of section 234.01, Florida Statutes, to read:

234.01 Purpose; transportation; when provided.—

(1) School boards, after considering recommendations of the superintendent:

(g) May provide transportation for WAGES program participants as defined in s. 414.0252.

Section 10. Present paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section 234.211, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (c), and a new paragraph (b) is added to that subsection to read:

234.211 Use of school buses for public purposes.—

(1)

(b) Each school district may enter into agreements with local WAGES coalitions for the provision of transportation services to WAGES program participants as defined in s. 414.0252. Agreements must provide for reimbursement in full or in part for the proportionate share of fixed and operating costs incurred by the school district attributable to the use of buses in accordance with the agreement.

Section 11. Subsection (13) is added to section 341.041, Florida Statutes, to read:

341.041 Transit responsibilities of the department.—The department shall, within the resources provided pursuant to chapter 216:

(13) Assist local governmental entities and other transit operators in the planning, development, and coordination of transit services for WAGES program participants as defined in s. 414.0252.

Section 12. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 341.052, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

341.052 Public transit block grant program; administration; eligible projects; limitation.—

(1) There is created a public transit block grant program which shall be administered by the department. Block grant funds shall only be provided to “Section 9” providers and “Section 18” providers designated by the United States Department of Transportation and community transportation coordinators as defined in chapter 427. Eligible providers must establish public transportation development plans consistent, to the maximum extent feasible, with approved local government comprehensive plans of the units of local government in which the provider is located. In developing public transportation development plans, eligible providers must solicit comments from local WAGES coalitions established under chapter 414. The development plans must address how the public transit provider will work with the appropriate local WAGES coalition to provide services to WAGES participants. Eligible providers must review program and financial plans established under s. 414.028 and provide information to the local WAGES coalition serving the county in which the provider is located regarding the availability of transportation services to assist WAGES program participants.

(2) Costs for which public transit block grant program funds may be expended include:

(a) Costs of public bus transit and local public fixed guideway capital projects.

(b) Costs of public bus transit service development and transit corridor projects. Whenever block grant funds are used for a service development project or a transit corridor project, the use of such funds is governed by s. 341.051. Local transit service development projects and transit corridor projects currently operating under contract with the department shall continue to receive state funds according to the contract until such time as the contract expires. Transit corridor projects, wholly within one county, meeting or exceeding performance criteria as described in the contract shall be continued by the transit provider at the same or a higher level of service until such time as the department, the M.P.O., and the service provider, agree to discontinue the service. The provider may not increase fares for services in transit corridor projects wholly within one county without the consent of the department.

(c) Costs of public bus transit operations.

All projects ~~must shall~~ be consistent, to the maximum extent feasible, with the approved local government comprehensive plans of the units of local government ~~comprehensive plans of local government~~ in which the project is located.

Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 414.026, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

414.026 WAGES Program State Board of Directors.—

(2)(a) The board of directors shall be composed of the following members:

1. The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.
2. The Secretary of Children and Family Services.
3. The Secretary of Health.
4. The Secretary of Labor and Employment Security.
5. The Secretary of Community Affairs.
6. The Secretary of Transportation, or the secretary's designee.

~~7.6.~~ The director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development.

~~8.7.~~ The president of the Enterprise Florida workforce development board, established under s. 288.9620.

~~9.8.~~ The chief executive officer of the Florida Tourism Industry Marketing Corporation, established under s. 288.1226.

10.9. Nine members appointed by the Governor, as follows:

a. Six members shall be appointed from a list of ten nominees, of which five must be submitted by the President of the Senate and five must be submitted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The list of five

nominees submitted by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives must each contain at least three individuals employed in the private sector, two of whom must have management experience. One of the five nominees submitted by the President of the Senate and one of the five nominees submitted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives must be an elected local government official who shall serve as an ex officio nonvoting member.

- b. Three members shall be at-large members appointed by the Governor.
- c. Of the nine members appointed by the Governor, at least six must be employed in the private sector and of these, at least five must have management experience.

The members appointed by the Governor shall be appointed to 4-year, staggered terms. Within 60 days after a vacancy occurs on the board, the Governor shall fill the vacancy of a member appointed from the nominees submitted by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the remainder of the unexpired term from one nominee submitted by the President of the Senate and one nominee submitted by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Within 60 days after a vacancy of a member appointed at-large by the Governor occurs on the board, the Governor shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term. The composition of the board must generally reflect the racial, gender, and ethnic diversity of the state as a whole.

Section 14. Section 414.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

414.20 Other support services.—Support services shall be provided, if resources permit, to assist participants in complying with work activity requirements outlined in s. 414.065. If resources do not permit the provision of needed support services, the department and the Department of Labor and Employment Security may prioritize or otherwise limit provision of support services. This section does not constitute an entitlement to support services. Lack of provision of support services may be considered as a factor in determining whether good cause exists for failing to comply with work activity requirements but does not automatically constitute good cause for failing to comply with work activity requirements, and does not affect any applicable time limit on the receipt of temporary cash assistance or the provision of services under this chapter. Support services shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) TRANSPORTATION.—Transportation expenses may be provided to any participant when the assistance is needed to comply with work activity requirements or employment requirements, including transportation to and from a child care provider. Payment may be made in cash or tokens in advance or through reimbursement paid against receipts or invoices. Transportation services may include, but are not limited to, cooperative arrangements with the following: public transit providers; community transportation coordinators designated under chapter 427; school districts; churches and community centers; donated motor vehicle programs, vanpools, and ridesharing programs; small enterprise developments and entrepreneurial

programs that encourage WAGES participants to become transportation providers; public and private transportation partnerships; and other innovative strategies to expand transportation options available to program participants.

(a) Local WAGES coalitions are authorized to provide payment for vehicle operational and repair expenses, including repair expenditures necessary to make a vehicle functional; vehicle registration fees; driver's license fees; and liability insurance for the vehicle for a period of up to 6 months. Request for vehicle repairs must be accompanied by an estimate of the cost prepared by a repair facility registered under s. 559.904.

~~(b) Transportation disadvantaged funds as defined in chapter 427 do not include WAGES support services funds or funds appropriated to assist persons eligible under the Job Training Partnership Act. It is the intent of the Legislature that local WAGES coalitions and regional workforce development boards consult with local community transportation coordinators designated under chapter 427 regarding the availability and cost of transportation services through the coordinated transportation system prior to contracting for comparable transportation services outside the coordinated system. Support services funds may also be used to develop transportation resources to expand transportation options available to participants. These services may include cooperative arrangements with local transit authorities or school districts and small enterprise development.~~

(2) ANCILLARY EXPENSES.—Ancillary expenses such as books, tools, clothing, fees, and costs necessary to comply with work activity requirements or employment requirements may be provided.

(3) MEDICAL SERVICES.—A family that meets the eligibility requirements for Medicaid shall receive medical services under the Medicaid program.

(4) PERSONAL AND FAMILY COUNSELING AND THERAPY.—Counseling may be provided to participants who have a personal or family problem or problems caused by substance abuse that is a barrier to compliance with work activity requirements or employment requirements. In providing these services, the department and the Department of Labor and Employment Security shall use services that are available in the community at no additional cost. If these services are not available, the department and the Department of Labor and Employment Security may use support services funds. Personal or family counseling not available through Medicaid may not be considered a medical service for purposes of the required statewide implementation plan or use of federal funds.

Section 15. Section 414.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

414.25 Exemption from leased real property requirements.—In order to facilitate implementation of this chapter with respect to establishing jobs and benefits offices, the Department of Labor and Employment Security and the Department of Children and Family Services are exempt from the requirements of 255.25(2)(b) and 255.25(3)(a) which relate to the requirement of advertisement for and receipt of competitive bids for the procurement of

~~leased real property. This exemption expires June 30, 1999 s. 255.25 which relate to the procurement of leased real property. This exemption expires June 30, 1998.~~

Section 16. Section 414.225, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

414.225 Transitional transportation.—In order to assist former WAGES participants in maintaining and sustaining employment, transportation may be provided, if funds are available, for up to 1 year after the participant is no longer eligible to participate in the program due to earnings. This does not constitute an entitlement to transitional transportation. If funds are not sufficient to provide services under this section, the department may limit or otherwise prioritize transportation services.

(1) Transitional transportation must be job related.

(2) Transitional transportation may include expenses identified in s. 414.20.

Section 17. Subsection (27) is added to section 427.013, Florida Statutes, to read:

427.013 The Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged; purpose and responsibilities.—The purpose of the commission is to accomplish the coordination of transportation services provided to the transportation disadvantaged. The goal of this coordination shall be to assure the cost-effective provision of transportation by qualified community transportation coordinators or transportation operators for the transportation disadvantaged without any bias or presumption in favor of multioperator systems or not-for-profit transportation operators over single operator systems or for-profit transportation operators. In carrying out this purpose, the commission shall:

(27) Ensure that local community transportation coordinators work cooperatively with local WAGES coalitions established in chapter 414 to provide assistance in the development of innovative transportation services for WAGES participants.

Section 18. Subsection (9) is added to section 427.0155, Florida Statutes, to read:

427.0155 Community transportation coordinators; powers and duties.—Community transportation coordinators shall have the following powers and duties:

(9) Work cooperatively with local WAGES coalitions established in chapter 414 to provide assistance in the development of innovative transportation services for WAGES participants.

Section 19. Subsection (7) is added to section 427.0157, Florida Statutes, to read:

427.0157 Coordinating boards; powers and duties.—The purpose of each coordinating board is to develop local service needs and to provide informa-

tion, advice, and direction to the community transportation coordinators on the coordination of services to be provided to the transportation disadvantaged. The commission shall, by rule, establish the membership of coordinating boards. The members of each board shall be appointed by the metropolitan planning organization or designated official planning agency. The appointing authority shall provide each board with sufficient staff support and resources to enable the board to fulfill its responsibilities under this section. Each board shall meet at least quarterly and shall:

(7) Work cooperatively with local WAGES coalitions established in chapter 414 to provide assistance in the development of innovative transportation services for WAGES participants.

Section 20. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 212.096, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

212.096 Sales, rental, storage, use tax; enterprise zone jobs credit against sales tax.—

(1) For the purposes of the credit provided in this section:

(a) “Eligible business” means any sole proprietorship, firm, partnership, corporation, bank, savings association, estate, trust, business trust, receiver, syndicate, or other group or combination, or successor business, located in an enterprise zone. An eligible business does not include any business which has claimed the credit permitted under s. 220.181 for any new business employee first beginning employment with the business after July 1, 1995.

(b) “Month” means either a calendar month or the time period from any day of any month to the corresponding day of the next succeeding month or, if there is no corresponding day in the next succeeding month, the last day of the succeeding month.

(c) “New employee” means a person residing in an enterprise zone, a qualified Job Training Partnership Act classroom training participant, or a WAGES Program participant who begins employment with an eligible business after July 1, 1995, and who has not been previously employed within the preceding 12 months by the eligible business, or a successor eligible business, claiming the credit allowed by this section.

A person shall be deemed to be employed if the person performs duties in connection with the operations of the business on a regular, full-time basis, provided the person is performing such duties for an average of at least 36 hours per week each month, or a part-time basis, provided the person is performing such duties for an average of at least 20 hours per week each month throughout the year. The person must be performing such duties at a business site located in the enterprise zone.

(3) In order to claim this credit, an eligible business must file under oath with the governing body or enterprise zone development agency having jurisdiction over the enterprise zone where the business is located, as applicable, a statement which includes:

(a) For each new employee for whom this credit is claimed, the employee's name and place of residence, including the identifying number assigned pursuant to s. 290.0065 to the enterprise zone in which the employee resides if the new employee is a person residing in an enterprise zone, and, if applicable, documentation that the employee is a qualified Job Training Partnership Act classroom training participant or a WAGES Program participant.

Section 21. Paragraph (q) of subsection (1) of section 220.03, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

220.03 Definitions.—

(1) SPECIFIC TERMS.—When used in this code, and when not otherwise distinctly expressed or manifestly incompatible with the intent thereof, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(q) “New employee,” for the purposes of the enterprise zone jobs credit, means a person residing in an enterprise zone, a qualified Job Training Partnership Act classroom training participant, or a WAGES Program participant employed at a business located in an enterprise zone who begins employment in the operations of the business after July 1, 1995, and who has not been previously employed within the preceding 12 months by the business or a successor business claiming the credit pursuant to s. 220.181. A person shall be deemed to be employed by such a business if the person performs duties in connection with the operations of the business on a full-time basis, provided she or he is performing such duties for an average of at least 36 hours per week each month, or a part-time basis, provided she or he is performing such duties for an average of at least 20 hours per week each month throughout the year. The person must be performing such duties at a business site located in an enterprise zone. The provisions of this paragraph shall expire and be void on June 30, 2005.

Section 22. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 220.181, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

220.181 Enterprise zone jobs credit.—

(2) When filing for an enterprise zone jobs credit, a business must file under oath with the governing body or enterprise zone development agency having jurisdiction over the enterprise zone where the business is located, as applicable, a statement which includes:

(a) For each new employee for whom this credit is claimed, the employee's name and place of residence during the taxable year, including the identifying number assigned pursuant to s. 290.0065 to the enterprise zone in which the new employee resides if the new employee is a person residing in an enterprise zone, and, if applicable, documentation that the employee is a qualified Job Training Partnership Act classroom training participant or a WAGES Program participant.

Section 23. Subsection (10) is added to section 288.047, Florida Statutes, to read:

288.047 Quick-response training for economic development.—

(10) There is created a Quick-response Training Program for Work and Gain Economic Self-sufficiency (WAGES) participants. Enterprise Florida, Inc., may, at the discretion of the State WAGES Emergency Response Team, award quick-response training grants and develop applicable guidelines for the training of participants in the WAGES Program. In addition to a local economic development organization, grants must be endorsed by the applicable local WAGES coalition and regional workforce development board.

(a) Training funded pursuant to this subsection may not exceed 12 months, and may be provided by the local community college, school district, regional workforce development board, or the business employing the participant, including on-the-job training. Training will provide entry-level skills to new workers, including those employed in retail, who are participants in the WAGES Program.

(b) WAGES participants trained pursuant to this subsection must be employed at a wage not less than \$6.00 per hour.

(c) Funds made available pursuant to this subsection may be expended in connection with the relocation of a business from one community to another community if approved by the State WAGES Emergency Response Team.

Section 24. Section 414.155, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

414.155 Relocation assistance program.—

(1) The Legislature recognizes that the need for public assistance may arise because a family is located in an area with limited employment opportunities, because of geographic isolation, because of formidable transportation barriers, because of isolation from their extended family, or because domestic violence interferes with the ability of a parent to maintain self-sufficiency. Accordingly there is established a program to assist families in relocating to communities with greater opportunities for self-sufficiency.

(2) The relocation assistance program shall involve five steps by the Department of Children and Family Services or the Department of Labor and Employment Security:

(a) A determination that the family is a WAGES Program participant or that all requirements of eligibility for the WAGES Program would likely be met.

(b) A determination that there is a basis for believing that relocation will contribute to the ability of the applicant to achieve self-sufficiency. For example, the applicant:

1. Is unlikely to achieve independence at the current community of residence;

2. Has secured a job that requires relocation to another community;

3. Has a family support network in another community; or

4. Is determined, pursuant to criteria or procedures established by the WAGES Program State Board of Directors, to be a victim of domestic violence who would experience reduced probability of further incidents through relocation.

(c) Establishment of a relocation plan, including a budget and such requirements as are necessary to prevent abuse of the benefit and to provide an assurance that the applicant will relocate. The plan may require that expenditures be made on behalf of the recipient. However, the plan must include provisions to protect the safety of victims of domestic violence and avoid provisions that place them in anticipated danger. The payment to defray relocation expenses shall be limited to an amount not to exceed 4 months' temporary cash assistance, based on family size.

(d) A determination, pursuant to criteria adopted by the WAGES Program State Board of Directors, that a Florida community receiving a relocated family has the capacity to provide needed services and employment opportunities.

(e) Monitoring the relocation.

(3) A family receiving relocation assistance for reasons other than domestic violence must sign an agreement restricting the family from applying for temporary cash assistance for 6 months, unless an emergency is demonstrated to the department. If a demonstrated emergency forces the family to reapply for temporary cash assistance within 6 months after receiving a relocation assistance payment, repayment must be made on a prorated basis over an 8-month period and subtracted from any regular payment of temporary cash assistance for which the applicant may be eligible.

(4) The Department of Labor and Employment Security shall have authority to adopt rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act to determine that a community has the capacity to provide services and employment opportunities for a relocated family.

(5) The Department of Children and Family Services shall have authority to adopt rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act to develop and implement relocation plans and to draft an agreement restricting a family from applying for temporary cash assistance within 6 months after receiving a relocation assistance payment.

(6) The Department of Labor and Employment Security shall have authority to adopt rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act to determine that a community has the capacity to provide services and employment opportunities for a relocated family.

(7) The Department of Children and Family Services shall have authority to adopt rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act to develop and implement relocation plans and to draft an agreement restricting a family from applying for temporary cash assistance within 6 months after receiving a relocation assistance payment.

Section 25. (1) The sum of \$32 million is hereby appropriated from the Employment Security Administration Trust Fund for the Department of Labor and Employment Security, which shall be used to assist WAGES Coalitions to prepare, place, and support WAGES programs participants in jobs or other approved work-related activities. Such expenditures from the Employment Security Administration Trust Fund which are based on receipts from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant shall be expended in accordance with the requirements and limitations of Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act, as amended, or any other applicable federal requirement or limitation. Prior to any expenditure of such funds, the Secretary of the Department of Children and Family Services or his designee shall certify that controls are in place to ensure that such funds are expended in accordance with the requirements and limitations of federal law and that any reporting requirements of federal law are met. It shall be the responsibility of any entity to which such funds are appropriated to obtain the required certification prior to any expenditure of funds. The appropriation provided in this subsection is void if an appropriation for the same amount and for the same purposes is contained in another bill that passes after the passage of this bill during the 1998 Regular Session or an extension thereof.

(2) A total of \$1.9 million is appropriated from the Employment Security Administration Trust Fund to establish a life preparation program with the National Guard for children of WAGES participants and economically disadvantaged youths in concert with neighborhood revitalization efforts.

(3) The following resources are designated for support of the WAGES Program Employment Projects. Any expenditures from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant or Job Training Partnership Act shall be expended in accordance with the requirements and limitations of part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act, as amended or any other applicable federal requirement or limitation. Prior to any expenditure of such funds, the secretaries of the departments of Children and Family Services and Labor and Employment Security, or their designees shall certify that controls are in place to insure such funds are expended in accordance with the requirements and limitations of federal law and that any reporting requirements of federal law are met. It shall be the responsibility of any entity to which such funds are appropriated to obtain the required certification prior to any expenditure of funds.

(a) Up to \$25 million of funds designated for WAGES reserve is to be expended for WAGES Program Employment Projects.

(b) Up to \$7.5 million from Employment Security Administration Trust Fund amounts associated with the Welfare-to-Work grant is to be reserved for WAGES Program Employment Projects. Of the \$7.5 million reserved, \$2.5 million is to be provided to the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences of the University of Florida for WAGES job opportunities, and \$1 million is to be provided to the Department of Military Affairs to provide job readiness services for WAGES Program participants as approved by the State WAGES Board.

Approved by the Governor May 15, 1998.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 15, 1998.