

## House Bill No. 1099

An act relating to domestic violence centers; amending s. 39.903, F.S.; removing a requirement that the Department of Children and Family Services approve or reject applications for funding received from domestic violence centers; providing for the provision of technical assistance and the distribution of funds for domestic violence centers by a statewide association whose primary purpose is to provide technical assistance to certified domestic violence centers; providing that such association shall implement, administer, and evaluate the services provided by the certified domestic violence centers; limiting the services and funding to certified domestic violence centers; amending s. 39.905, F.S.; providing that the Department of Children and Family Services shall approve, rather than develop, a funding distribution formula for state funds provided to certified domestic violence centers; providing requirements for contracts between the statewide association and certified domestic violence centers; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and subsection (7) of section 39.903, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

39.903 Duties and functions of the department with respect to domestic violence.—

(1) The department shall:

(c) Receive and approve or reject applications for certification of domestic violence centers, ~~and receive and approve or reject applications for funding of domestic violence centers. When approving funding for a newly certified domestic violence center, the department shall make every effort to minimize any adverse economic impact on existing certified centers or services provided within the same district. In order to minimize duplication of services, the department shall make every effort to encourage subcontracting relationships with existing centers within the district.~~ If any of the required services are exempted from certification by the department under s. 39.905(1)(c), the center shall not receive funding for those services.

(7) The department shall contract with a statewide association whose primary purpose is to represent and provide technical assistance to certified domestic violence centers. This association shall implement, administer, and evaluate all services provided by the certified domestic violence centers. The association shall receive and approve or reject applications for funding of certified domestic violence centers. When approving funding for a newly certified domestic violence center, the association shall make every effort to minimize any adverse economic impact on existing certified domestic violence centers or services provided within the same service area. In order to minimize duplication of services, the association shall make every effort to

encourage subcontracting relationships with existing certified domestic violence centers within the same service area. In distributing funds allocated by the Legislature for certified domestic violence centers, the association shall use a formula approved by the department as specified in s. 39.905(7)(a) receive 2 percent of the Domestic Violence Trust Fund for this purpose.

Section 2. Subsection (7) of section 39.905, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.905 Domestic violence centers.—

(7)(a) All funds collected and appropriated to the domestic violence program for certified domestic violence centers shall be distributed annually ~~by the department to each district~~ according to an allocation formula approved determined by the department. In developing the formula, the factors of department shall consider population, a rural ~~characteristics, and geographical area factor,~~ and the incidence of domestic violence shall be considered.

(b) A contract between the statewide association ~~a district~~ and a certified domestic violence center shall contain provisions assuring the availability and geographic accessibility of services throughout the district. For this purpose, a center may distribute funds through subcontracts or to center satellites, provided such arrangements and any subcontracts are approved by the statewide association ~~district.~~

Section 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2004.

Approved by the Governor May 7, 2003.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 7, 2003.