

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1902

An act relating to the Department of Children and Family Services; providing for waiver of specified provisions of law; directing the department to consult with the Executive Office of the Governor in implementing waiver authority; requiring a report and monthly status reports; requiring a comprehensive reorganization plan; requiring the Department of Children and Family Services to develop and submit to the Legislature a proposed plan to realign the boundaries of the districts of the department; specifying that other statutory responsibilities or related rules are not impaired; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. (1) The following provisions of section 20.19, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, are waived until July 1, 2000, for the purpose of allowing the Department of Children and Family Services to organize programs, districts, and functions of the department to achieve more effective and efficient service delivery and improve accountability, notwithstanding the provisions of section 20.04, Florida Statutes:

(a) Section 20.19(2)(b) and (f) Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, relating to the secretary and deputy secretary.

(b) Section 20.19(3), Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, relating to the Office of Standards and Evaluation.

(c) Section 20.19(5)(a), Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, relating to program offices.

(d) Section 20.19(6)(a), (c), and (d), Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, relating to the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

(e) Section 20.19(8)(l), (m), (n), and (o), Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, relating to health and human services boards.

(f) Section 20.19(9), Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, relating to district nominee qualifications review committees.

(g) Section 20.19(10), (a), (b), (c)1.-7., (d), (e), (f), and (g), Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, relating to the district administrator.

(h) Section 20.19(12)(d), Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, relating to the departmental budget.

Actions taken under the authority granted by this section must be taken in consultation with the Executive Office of the Governor. The secretary shall submit a report describing actions taken and additional plans for implementing the provisions of this section to the Governor, the President of the

Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by thirty days after this bill becomes law. The department shall submit status reports on a monthly basis through December 1999.

(2) The secretary shall submit a comprehensive reorganization plan to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2000. The comprehensive reorganization plan must describe the organizational and program restructuring activities that have occurred since the effective date of this act, including indications of an improved ability to carry out the department's mission under section 20.19(1), Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, and any organizational efficiencies. The plan must also describe what strategies proved to be ineffective or inefficient. The plan must include any recommendations for reorganization, including program and organizational restructuring and any statutory revisions.

(3) The provisions of this act shall not impair the operation of any other statutory responsibilities, or the rules adopted thereunder, which are specifically conferred by statute until such statutes or rules are specifically amended or repealed in the manner provided by law.

Section 2. The Department of Children and Family Services, in consultation with the Office of the State Courts Administrator, shall develop a proposed plan to realign the districts of the department so that the district boundaries are consistent with the boundaries of the judicial circuits. The plan may not propose more than 15 districts for the department and must include, as at least one alternative, a proposal for fewer than 15 districts. The proposed plan must be submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 1999.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 26, 1999.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 26, 1999.