

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 606

An act relating to trust funds; creating the Child Advocacy Trust Fund within the Department of Children and Family Services; providing for sources of funds and purposes; specifying the use of collected funds; requiring the development of an allocation methodology for distributing funds deposited in the trust fund; providing for funds to establish children's advocacy centers; providing for future legislative review and termination or re-creation of the trust fund; providing a contingent effective date.

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

Section 1. Child Advocacy Trust Fund.—

(1)(a) The Child Advocacy Trust Fund is created within the Department of Children and Family Services for the purpose of receiving funds collected from the additional court cost imposed in cases of certain crimes against minors under section 938.10, Florida Statutes. Funds shall be appropriated to the Department of Children and Family Services for the specific purpose of funding children's advocacy centers. Funds shall be disbursed to the Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc., as established under section 39.3035, Florida Statutes, for the purpose of providing community-based services that augment, but that do not duplicate, services provided by state agencies.

(b) The Board of Directors of the Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc., shall retain 10 percent of all revenues collected to be used to match local contributions, at a rate not to exceed an equal match, in communities establishing children's advocacy centers. The board of directors may use up to 5 percent of the remaining funds to support the activities of the network office and must develop funding criteria and an allocation methodology that ensures an equitable distribution of remaining funds among network participants. The criteria and methodologies must take into account factors that include, but need not be limited to, the center's accreditation status with respect to the National Children's Alliance, the number of clients served, and the population of the area being served by the children's advocacy center.

(2) Pursuant to Section 19(f)(2), Article III of the State Constitution, the trust fund shall, unless terminated sooner, be terminated on July 1, 2008. Before its scheduled termination, the trust fund shall be reviewed as provided in section 215.3206(1) and (2), Florida Statutes.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004, if Senate Bill 602 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative session, or an extension thereof, and becomes law.

Approved by the Governor June 17, 2004.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 17, 2004.