

By Senator Bankhead

8-1369-98

See HB

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to the WAGES Program; creating  
3           s. 414.155, F.S.; providing a relocation  
4           assistance program for families receiving or  
5           eligible to receive WAGES Program assistance;  
6           providing responsibilities of the Department of  
7           Children and Family Services; providing for a  
8           relocation plan and for monitoring of the  
9           relocation; requiring agreements restricting  
10          application for temporary cash assistance for a  
11          specified period; providing exceptions;  
12          requiring repayment of temporary cash  
13          assistance provided under certain  
14          circumstances, and reduced eligibility for  
15          future assistance; providing an effective date.

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

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19           Section 1. Section 414.155, Florida Statutes, is  
20 created to read:

21           414.155 Relocation assistance program.--  
22           (1) The Legislature recognizes that the need for  
23 public assistance may arise because a family is located in an  
24 area with limited employment opportunities, because of  
25 geographic isolation, because of formidable transportation  
26 barriers, because of isolation from their extended family, or  
27 because domestic violence interferes with the ability of a  
28 parent to maintain self-sufficiency. Accordingly there is  
29 established a program to assist families in relocating to  
30 communities with greater opportunities for self-sufficiency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

16           4. Is a victim of domestic violence who would  
17 experience reduced probability of further incidents through  
18 relocation.

19           (c) Establishment of a relocation plan, including a  
20 budget and such requirements as are necessary to prevent abuse  
21 of the benefit and to provide an assurance that the applicant  
22 will relocate, which includes making expenditures on behalf of  
23 the applicant. The payment to defray relocation expenses  
24 shall be limited to an amount not to exceed 4 months'  
25 temporary cash assistance, based on family size.

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

30           (e) Monitoring the relocation.  
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