

By the Committee on Commerce and Economic Opportunities and
Senator Bankhead

310-1934-98

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 and the Department
8 of Labor and Employment Security; providing for
9 a relocation plan and for monitoring of the
10 relocation; requiring agreements restricting
11 application for temporary cash assistance for a
12 specified period; providing exceptions;
13 requiring repayment of temporary cash
14 assistance provided under certain
15 circumstances, and reduced eligibility for
16 future assistance; providing rulemaking
17 authority for the Department of Children and
18 Family Services and the Department of Labor and
19 Employment Security; providing legislative
20 intent with respect to encouraging the
21 employment of participants in the WAGES
22 Program; requiring the Office of Tourism,
23 Trade, and Economic Development to certify to
24 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of
25 the House of Representatives the amount of
26 taxes and the economic benefit generated by the
27 restaurant industry from employing WAGES
28 participants and to add that amount to the
29 total amount of certain beverage taxes and
30 penalties paid during a specified calendar
31 year; providing for the repeal of s. 561.501,

1 F.S., relating to the surcharge on the sale of
2 alcoholic beverages, if the total amount of the
3 surcharge exceeds a specified figure; providing
4 an effective date.
5

6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
7

8 Section 1. Section 414.155, Florida Statutes, is
9 created to read:

10 414.155 Relocation assistance program.--

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 (c) Establishment of a relocation plan, including a
10 budget and such requirements as are necessary to prevent abuse
11 of the benefit and to provide an assurance that the applicant
12 will relocate. The plan may require that expenditures be made
13 on behalf of the recipient; however, the plan must include
14 provisions to protect the safety of victims of domestic
15 violence and avoid provisions that place them in anticipated
16 danger. The payment to defray relocation expenses shall be
17 limited to an amount not to exceed 4 months' temporary cash
18 assistance, based on family size, and will not count towards
19 the time limitations stated in s. 414.105. The Department of
20 Children and Family Services may adopt rules necessary to
21 administer this section.

22 (d) A determination, pursuant to criteria adopted by
23 the WAGES Program State Board of Directors, that a Florida
24 community receiving a relocated family has the capacity to
25 provide needed services and employment opportunities. The
26 Department of Labor and Employment Security may adopt rules
27 necessary to establish criteria to be used by the WAGES
28 Program State Board of Directors in administering this
29 paragraph.

30 (e) Monitoring the relocation.
31

1 (3) A family receiving relocation assistance for
2 reasons other than domestic violence must sign an agreement
3 restricting the family from applying for temporary cash
4 assistance for 6 months, unless an emergency is demonstrated
5 to the department. If a demonstrated emergency forces the
6 family to reapply for temporary cash assistance within 6
7 months after receiving a relocation assistance payment,
8 repayment must be made on a prorated basis over an 8-month
9 period and subtracted from any regular payment of temporary
10 cash assistance for which the applicant may be eligible. The
11 Department of Children and Family Services may adopt rules
12 necessary to administer this section.

13 Section 2. The Legislature recognizes that the
14 restaurant industry is uniquely qualified to provide
15 employment opportunities for a significant number of WAGES
16 participants. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature
17 to encourage employment of WAGES participants by the
18 restaurant industry. By March 1, 1999, the Office of Tourism,
19 Trade, and Economic Development shall certify to the President
20 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
21 the amount of taxes and the dollar value of economic benefits
22 generated by the restaurant industry from the employment of
23 participants in the WAGES Program during the 1998 calendar
24 year. The total of the amount of taxes and the dollar value of
25 economic benefits reported to the President of the Senate and
26 the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be added to
27 the amount of taxes paid during the 1998 calendar year under
28 sections 563.05, 564.06, and 565.12, Florida Statutes, and
29 payments made to the state under section 561.54, Florida
30 Statutes. If the total of these amounts is greater than \$535
31

1 million, effective July 1, 1999, section 561.501, Florida
2 Statutes, is repealed.

3 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1 of the
4 year in which enacted.

5
6 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
8 Senate Bill 2014

9 The committee substitute provides:

- 10 -- That the Department of Labor and Employment Security will
11 assist the Department of Children and Family Services in
12 developing the five step plan;
13 -- That the determination of whether a victim of domestic
14 violence would experience a reduced probability of
15 further incidences upon relocation will be subject to
16 criteria or procedures established by the State WAGES
17 Board;
18 -- That the relocation plan may require that expenditures be
19 made on behalf of the recipient and that the plan for
20 victims of domestic violence must include provisions to
21 protect the safety of the victim;
22 -- That the relocation assistance payment will not count
23 toward the time limitations provided under the WAGES
24 Program; and
25 -- That the Department of Children and Family Services and
26 Department of Labor and Employment Security have proper
27 rulemaking authority.

28 This committee substitute requires that the Office of Tourism,
29 Trade, and Economic Development certify to the Legislature the
30 amount of taxes and the economic benefits generated by the
31 restaurant industry from employing participants in the WAGES
program and add that amount to the total amount of certain
beverage taxes and penalties paid during the 1998 calendar
year. The committee substitute also provides that if the total
amount exceeds \$535 million, the surcharge on the sale of
alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises is
repealed effective July 1, 1999.