Florida House of Representatives - 1998

By the Committee on Children & Family Empowerment and Representative Littlefield

1	N bill to be optitled
⊥ 2	A bill to be entitled
⊿ 3	An act relating to the WAGES Program; creating
	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 authority for
17	rules; providing legislative intent to
18	encourage employment of WAGES participants in
19	the restaurant industry; repealing s. 561.501,
20	F.S., relating to a surcharge on the sale of
21	alcoholic beverages on the premises, contingent
22	upon certain conditions being met; providing an
23	effective date.
24	
25	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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27	Section 1. Section 414.155, Florida Statutes, is
28	created to read:
29	414.155 Relocation assistance program
30	(1) The Legislature recognizes that the need for
31	public assistance may arise because a family is located in an
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area with limited employment opportunities, because of 1 2 geographic isolation, because of formidable transportation barriers, because of isolation from their extended family, or 3 because domestic violence interferes with the ability of a 4 5 parent to maintain self-sufficiency. Accordingly there is б established a program to assist families in relocating to 7 communities with greater opportunities for self-sufficiency. 8 (2) The relocation assistance program shall involve 9 five steps by the Department of Children and Family Services or the Department of Labor and Employment Security: 10 11 (a) A determination that the family is a WAGES Program 12 participant or that all requirements of eligibility for the 13 WAGES Program would likely be met. 14 (b) A determination that there is a basis for believing that relocation will contribute to the ability of 15 16 the applicant to achieve self-sufficiency. For example, the 17 applicant: 18 1. Is unlikely to achieve independence at the current community of residence; 19 20 2. Has secured a job that requires relocation to another community; 21 22 3. Has a family support network in another community; 23 or 24 4. Is determined, pursuant to criteria or procedures 25 established by the WAGES Program State Board of Directors, to be a victim of domestic violence who would experience reduced 26 27 probability of further incidents through relocation. 28 (c) Establishment of a relocation plan, including a 29 budget and such requirements as are necessary to prevent abuse of the benefit and to provide an assurance that the applicant 30 will relocate. The plan may require that expenditures be made 31 2

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on behalf of the recipient. However, the plan must include 1 2 provisions to protect the safety of victims of domestic violence and avoid provisions that place them in anticipated 3 danger. The payment to defray relocation expenses shall be 4 5 limited to an amount not to exceed 4 months' temporary cash 6 assistance, based on family size. 7 (d) A determination, pursuant to criteria adopted by 8 the WAGES Program State Board of Directors, that a Florida 9 community receiving a relocated family has the capacity to provide needed services and employment opportunities. 10 11 (e) Monitoring the relocation. 12 (3) A family receiving relocation assistance for 13 reasons other than domestic violence must sign an agreement 14 restricting the family from applying for temporary cash 15 assistance for 6 months, unless an emergency is demonstrated to the department. If a demonstrated emergency forces the 16 family to reapply for temporary cash assistance within 6 17 months after receiving a relocation assistance payment, 18 19 repayment must be made on a prorated basis over an 8-month 20 period and subtracted from any regular payment of temporary cash assistance for which the applicant may be eligible. 21 (4) The Department of Labor and Employment Security 22 shall have authority to adopt rules pursuant to the 23 24 Administrative Procedure Act to determine that a community has 25 the capacity to provide services and employment opportunities 26 for a relocated family. 27 (5) The Department of Children and Family Services 28 shall have authority to adopt rules pursuant to the 29 Administrative Procedure Act to develop and implement relocation plans and to draft an agreement restricting a 30 31

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family from applying for temporary cash assistance within 6 1 2 months after receiving a relocation assistance payment. 3 Section 2. The Legislature recognizes that the 4 restaurant industry is uniquely qualified to provide 5 employment opportunities for a significant number of WAGES 6 participants. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature 7 to encourage employment of WAGES participants by the 8 restaurant industry. By March 1, 1999, the Office of Tourism, 9 Trade, and Economic Development shall certify to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives 10 11 the amount of taxes and the dollar value of economic benefits 12 generated by the restaurant industry from the employment of 13 participants in the WAGES Program during the 1998 calendar year. The total of the amount of taxes and the dollar value of 14 economic benefits reported to the President of the Senate and 15 16 the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be added to 17 the amount of taxes paid during the 1998 calendar year under ss. 563.05, 564.06, and 565.12, Florida Statutes, and payments 18 19 made to the state under s. 561.54, Florida Statutes. If the 20 total of these amounts is greater than \$535 million, effective July 1, 1999, s. 561.501, Florida Statutes, is repealed. 21 22 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1 of the 23 year in which enacted. 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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