

By Senator Mitchell

4-1146-99

See HB 39

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to children in foster care
3 placement or relative placement; requiring the
4 development of a pilot educational enhancement
5 project to provide specialized services to
6 children in Alachua County and Citrus County;
7 providing requirements; providing an effective
8 date.

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

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12 Section 1. The Legislature finds that children
13 entering foster care placement or relative placement
14 experience frequent disruptions, due in part to the limited
15 supportive services available to the caregivers. The
16 Department of Children and Family Services shall develop a
17 pilot project in Alachua County and Citrus County with
18 licensed child-placing agencies to provide a specialized
19 educational enhancement program for children in foster care
20 placement or relative placement. The intent of the Educational
21 Enhancement Project is to provide reduced caseloads, increased
22 inservice training for foster parents, a salary to foster
23 parents, and additional support to foster parents and relative
24 caregivers through family liaison specialists. The project
25 shall provide services to children in foster care placement or
26 relative placement through educational and other supportive
27 services, in collaboration with the Anchor Center in Alachua
28 County. Training shall be provided to licensed foster parents
29 and relative caregivers to enhance their skills in providing
30 care to children. Four family liaison specialists shall
31 provide services as part of this project. Every effort shall

1 be made to employ in this project people who are served
2 through the WAGES Program. The project shall receive funding
3 necessary to be in operation by October 1, 1999.

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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7 HOUSE SUMMARY

8 Requires the Department of Children and Family Services
9 to develop the Educational Enhancement Project in Alachua
10 County and Citrus County, a pilot project to provide
11 services for children in foster care placement or
12 relative placement.
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