

By Senator Cowin

11-523-99

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the protection of children;
3 creating the "Kayla McKean Child Protection
4 Act"; providing legislative intent; providing
5 an effective date.
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7 WHEREAS, national statistics indicate that 46 percent
8 of children who died as a result of child abuse or neglect had
9 prior contact with the state child protection agency, and
10 WHEREAS, more than 79,000 children in Florida were
11 abused or neglected in fiscal year 1997-1998, and a number of
12 these children died as a result of being abused, and
13 WHEREAS, 22 percent of the abused or neglected children
14 in this state were abused or neglected again within 1 year
15 after the case was closed by the Department of Children and
16 Family Services, and
17 WHEREAS, the Legislature abhors a child-protection
18 system that allows a child who is known to be at risk to
19 remain in a dangerous home and be further harmed, even killed,
20 and
21 WHEREAS, the recent child deaths in Florida which
22 resulted from the maltreatment of children by their parents,
23 family members, or caregivers emphasize the need to enhance
24 the protection of the health and safety of children served by
25 Florida's child-protection system, by means including
26 strengthening the identification and assessment of those
27 parents, family members, or other caregivers who are involved
28 in or at risk of abusive or neglectful behavior, NOW,
29 THEREFORE,
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31 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

1 Section 1. Short title.--This act may be cited as the
2 "Kayla McKean Child Protection Act."

3 Section 2. Legislative intent.--The Legislature
4 intends to identify those gaps or shortcomings in the current
5 child-protection system, including those gaps or shortcomings
6 in child-protection services provided by the Department of
7 Children and Family Services and its contract providers, by
8 child protection teams, by law enforcement agencies, by
9 schools, and by the courts, in order to make the system more
10 responsive to children who are at risk of child abuse or
11 neglect.

12 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
13 law.

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16 SENATE SUMMARY

17 Creates the "Kayla McKean Child Protection Act." Provides
18 legislative intent.

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