

By Senator Silver

38-1084-00

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to certified domestic violence  
3           centers; providing for the capital improvement  
4           of such centers; creating a grant program for  
5           awarding funds to such centers; providing  
6           application requirements; prescribing uses of  
7           the funds; providing duties of the Department  
8           of Children and Family Services; providing  
9           rulemaking authority for the establishment of  
10          criteria for the disbursement of funds;  
11          providing an effective date.  
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13          WHEREAS, domestic violence remains one of the leading  
14          social problems in this state, and  
15          WHEREAS, Florida has led the nation in legislative  
16          efforts to reduce domestic violence, and victims are coming  
17          forward in record numbers to seek help, and  
18          WHEREAS, the state's responses to domestic violence  
19          include the services provided by the state's certified  
20          domestic violence centers, which provide mandated services  
21          including a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, case  
22          management information and referral, assessment of resident  
23          children, and community education and professional training,  
24          and  
25          WHEREAS, these services are designed to interrupt the  
26          cycle of violence by enhancing the safety and self-sufficiency  
27          of victims of domestic violence, and  
28          WHEREAS, emergency shelter is particularly critical,  
29          since the period of separation brings with it escalating risk  
30          of homicide, and  
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1           WHEREAS, many of the domestic violence centers in this  
2 state are in need of renovation and repair, and others are  
3 inadequate beyond repair, making it necessary for the center  
4 to build or purchase a new facility, and

5           WHEREAS, since the ever-increasing demand for services  
6 has prevented certified domestic violence centers from using  
7 already scarce resources to meet capital needs, there is a  
8 prevalent need for a funding process to address the growing  
9 needs of the centers, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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13           Section 1. Certified domestic violence centers;  
14 capital improvement grant program.--There is established a  
15 certified domestic violence center capital improvement grant  
16 program.

17           (1) A certified domestic violence center as defined in  
18 section 39.905, Florida Statutes, may apply to the Department  
19 of Children and Family Services for a capital improvement  
20 grant. The grant application must provide information that  
21 includes:

22           (a) A statement specifying the capital improvement  
23 that the certified domestic violence center proposes to make  
24 with the grant funds.

25           (b) The proposed strategy for making the capital  
26 improvement.

27           (c) The organizational structure that will carry out  
28 the capital improvement.

29           (d) Evidence that the certified domestic violence  
30 center has difficulty in obtaining funding or that funds  
31 available for the proposed improvement are inadequate.

1           (e) Evidence that the funds will assist in meeting the  
2 needs of victims of domestic violence and their children in  
3 the certified domestic violence center service area.

4           (f) Evidence of a satisfactory recordkeeping system to  
5 account for fund expenditures.

6           (g) Evidence of ability to generate local match.

7           (2) Certified domestic violence centers as defined in  
8 section 39.905, Florida Statutes, may receive funding subject  
9 to legislative appropriation, upon application to the  
10 Department of Children and Family Services, for projects to  
11 construct, acquire, repair, improve, or upgrade systems,  
12 facilities, or equipment, subject to availability of funds. An  
13 award of funds under this section must be made in accordance  
14 with a needs assessment developed by the Florida Coalition  
15 Against Domestic Violence and the Department of Children and  
16 Family Services. The department annually shall perform this  
17 needs assessment and shall rank in order of need those centers  
18 that are requesting funds for capital improvement.

19           (3) The Department of Children and Family Services  
20 shall establish criteria for awarding any remaining funds,  
21 which must be used exclusively for the support and assistance  
22 of certified domestic violence centers as defined in section  
23 39.905, Florida Statutes.

24           (4) The Department of Children and Family Services  
25 shall ensure that the funds awarded under this section are  
26 used solely for the purposes specified in this section. The  
27 total amount of grant moneys awarded under this section may  
28 not exceed the amount appropriated for this program.

29           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2000.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Creates a grant program for disbursing funds to provide for the capital improvement of certified domestic violence centers. Provides requirements for applications. Provides duties of the Department of Children and Family Services and the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Provides rulemaking authority to the department. Provides restrictions on uses of the grant funds.