Florida Senate - 2001

By the Committee on Children and Families

300-630A-01

i	500-050A-01
1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to domestic violence; requiring
3	the Department of Children and Family Services,
4	contingent upon the appropriation of funds, to
5	provide training on domestic violence and child
6	protection to specified professionals by a
7	specified date; providing for the Florida
8	Coalition Against Domestic Violence, contingent
9	upon the appropriation of funds, to provide
10	training to specified professionals by
11	specified dates; providing for the content of
12	training; requiring the department to assess
13	the need for special training of staff members
14	and professionals who interact with families in
15	which there is domestic violence and child
16	abuse; requiring collaboration with other
17	groups and state agencies; requiring a report
18	to the Governor and the Legislature; requiring
19	the department to conduct pilot programs in
20	which department staff perform the role of
21	domestic violence consultants participating in
22	protective investigative units; specifying
23	duties of the consultants; specifying
24	qualifications and minimum numbers of such
25	consultants per county; providing for
26	compensation; requiring the department to
27	collect and analyze data on the effectiveness
28	of the domestic violence consultants; requiring
29	a report to the Governor and the Legislature;
30	providing guidelines for administrative rules
31	or operating procedures relating to protective

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1	investigations of families in which domestic
2	violence exists; requiring the department to
3	form a work group concerned with the procedures
4	for identifying perpetrators of child abuse;
5	requiring a report to the Governor and the
6	Legislature; providing for pilot programs of a
7	Domestic Violence/Child Abuse Early
8	Intervention Initiative; providing eligibility
9	guidelines for families who are to be served by
10	the program; providing components of the
11	initiative; providing eligibility standards for
12	communities that may be sites for such
13	initiatives; requiring entities that enter into
14	an Interagency Working Agreement to provide
15	joint direction and oversight and to
16	collaborate with the local one-stop delivery
17	system; requiring the department to contract
18	with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic
19	Violence for the administration of the
20	initiative; requiring the coalition to
21	collaborate with the Agency for Workforce
22	Innovation; requiring a third-party evaluation
23	of the initiative; requiring a preliminary and
24	a final report to the Governor and the
25	Legislature; amending s. 741.30, F.S.;
26	requiring batterer's intervention programs to
27	provide to the court certain documents for the
28	case file; providing prerequisites to
29	dissolving an injunction against a respondent
30	in a domestic violence case; requiring the
31	department to conduct an examination of current
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1	court processes for requiring domestic violence
2	perpetrators to participate in the batterer's
3	intervention program and of methods for
4	requiring perpetrators who are not captured by
5	the current court processes to participate in
б	such a program; requiring collaboration with
7	specified agencies; requiring a report to the
8	Governor and the Legislature; requiring the
9	Department of Corrections to examine the
10	current mechanisms for monitoring participants'
11	completion of the batterer's intervention
12	program; requiring collaboration with specified
13	agencies; requiring a report to the Governor
14	and the Legislature; requiring collaboration
15	and at least one joint meeting of various work
16	groups; amending s. 39.903, F.S.; revising the
17	duties of the department with respect to
18	domestic violence; amending s. 39.904, F.S.;
19	amending the list of subject matter to be
20	included in the department's annual report to
21	the Legislature on the status of domestic
22	violence cases; providing an effective date.
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24	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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26	Section 1. (1) By December 31, 2001, contingent upon
27	the appropriation of funds, the Department of Children and
28	Family Services shall fully implement the department's
29	domestic violence training by providing the training to all
30	existing protective investigators, protective investigator
31	supervisors, foster care counselors, adoption counselors, and
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1 protective service counselors who have not yet received the domestic violence training. All operations program 2 3 administrators in the department must have received the domestic violence training by December 31, 2001. 4 5 Contingent upon the appropriation of funds, all (2) б personnel, paid or unpaid, of domestic violence centers 7 certified under section 39.905, Florida Statutes, who work 8 with victims of domestic violence and their dependents must receive a minimum of 8 hours of training concerning child 9 abuse. This training must, at a minimum, include recognizing 10 11 and reporting child abuse and the relevant components, process, and role of the child-protection system. The 12 Department of Children and Family Services, in collaboration 13 with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, shall 14 develop the curriculum. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic 15 Violence shall provide the training to domestic violence 16 17 staff. Personnel who currently work at the centers must have received the training concerning child abuse by June 30, 2002. 18 19 Personnel who are hired after June 30, 2001, must have received the training concerning child abuse within 2 years 20 21 after beginning their employment. Contingent upon the appropriation of funds, the 22 (3) Department of Children and Family Services, in conjunction 23 24 with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence or the local certified domestic violence center, shall conduct 25 districtwide joint training of domestic-violence-center staff 26 27 and protective investigator and protective investigator 28 supervisor staff. The purpose of the joint training is to 29 build a common understanding of the functions and perspectives 30 of the child protection and domestic violence systems and the 31 joint role of both systems in protecting both the child and 4

1 the battered parent. The Department of Children and Family Services shall develop the training in collaboration with the 2 3 Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The amount of funds appropriated will determine the number of districts in 4 5 which the joint training is offered. Attendance at this joint training fulfills the domestic violence center staff's б 7 requirement for training concerning child abuse. 8 The Department of Children and Family Services (4) 9 shall incorporate into its training concerning the initial child safety assessment, instruction on the injunction process 10 11 provided in section 39.504, Florida Statutes, as it relates to families in which domestic violence exists and assessment of 12 when this injunction process would and would not offer 13 protection for the child and for the nonabusing parent. The 14 instruction must address the need to use this injunction 15 process only with the consent of the nonabusing parent and in 16 17 conjunction with a safety plan for the child and for the nonabusing parent. 18 19 Section 2. The Department of Children and Family Services shall examine the staff positions and professions 20 that interact with families in which there is domestic 21 violence and which are involved in child abuse reporting, 22 protective investigations, or judicial proceedings described 23 in chapter 39, Florida Statutes, and shall identify those who 24 should receive training on the dynamics of domestic violence, 25 the impact of domestic violence on battered parents and 26 27 children, and the implications of domestic violence for the child protection system. Based on the findings from this 28 examination, the Department of Children and Family Services 29 30 shall develop recommendations for implementing domestic 31 violence training for each of the identified staff and

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professions, including, for each staff position and 1 profession, whether existing domestic violence training 2 3 exists, particular requirements relative to the position or profession which must be met, and the cost of providing the 4 5 training. At a minimum, staff positions and professions that б must be considered include child protection teams, child 7 welfare legal services, Department of Children and Family 8 Services' district attorneys, guardians ad litem, and hotline staff. This examination and development of recommendations 9 10 must be conducted in collaboration with the Florida Coalition 11 Against Domestic Violence, the Department of Health, the Family Law Section of The Florida Bar, and any other 12 interested organizations identified by the Department of 13 Children and Family Services. All participants in the 14 examination and development of recommendations must attend 15 meetings at their own expense. A report of the recommendations 16 17 and projections of costs associated with the recommendations must be submitted to the Governor, the President of the 18 19 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2002. 20 Section 3. (1) The Department of Children and Family 21 Services shall conduct a pilot program concerning the use of 22 domestic violence consultants in the protective investigative 23 24 units in at least three counties. The domestic violence consultants shall provide case consultation and technical 25 assistance with respect to the protective investigations and 26 27 the determination of interventions if there is domestic violence in the families, with the goal of educating and 28 29 supporting the protective investigative staff in identifying 30 and assembling the most-effective interventions possible for the children and adult victims. These domestic violence 31

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1 consultants shall serve as a liaison among the department, domestic violence centers, and other community agencies. The 2 3 domestic violence consultants may also assist in identifying domestic violence, assessing the risk of domestic violence to 4 5 both the children and the battered parent, assisting with б safety planning, and linking the family to community 7 resources. 8 (2) The equivalent of one domestic violence consultant 9 must be allotted for each protective investigative unit for 10 each county. The domestic violence consultants must be 11 existing protective investigators or protective investigator supervisors who have received the department's domestic 12 violence training and additional instruction from their local 13 domestic violence center. A higher level of compensation, 14 commensurate with that of the mentors in the department's 15 Child Protection Certification Program, will be paid to the 16 17 domestic violence consultants for their added responsibilities. Counties in which the department and the 18 19 certified domestic violence centers have entered into the Interagency Working Agreement are the only counties in which 20 21 the pilot program on the use of domestic violence consultants 22 may be conducted. The Department of Children and Family Services 23 (3) 24 shall collect and analyze data on the technical assistance provided to investigations and the families for whom 25 consultation has been provided to determine the extent to 26 27 which the goal of the domestic violence consultants is being achieved. At a minimum, the data collected must include 28 29 numbers and types of consultations provided, numbers and types 30 of families involved, utilization of consultants by the protective investigative units, linkages with community 31 7

1 resources, and case information such as domestic violence information ascertained, assessments conducted, safety 2 3 planning, and domestic violence service referrals. A report on the outcome of this analysis of the impact of the domestic 4 5 violence consultants on the investigations and families shall б be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and 7 the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 8 2003, and shall be used to consider the use of domestic violence consultants in additional counties. 9 10 Section 4. The Department of Children and Family 11 Services shall incorporate into administrative rule or operating procedures the following directions to the 12 protective investigation process relative to families in which 13 14 domestic violence exists: (1) In determining the parent's ability or failure to 15 protect the child or whether the protection of the child can 16 17 or cannot be assured in cases of domestic violence, the parent should be considered to be unable to protect or to have failed 18 19 to protect the child only after the investigator has explored all of the circumstances surrounding the abuse, including the 20 battered parent's attempts to seek help. 21 (2) An assessment of whether any current danger of 22 domestic violence to the battered parent exists is to be made, 23 24 and, if potential danger exists, a referral must be made for 25 the development of a safety plan for the battered parent. (3) Referral for a domestic violence assessment of 26 27 need and services is to be made when any potential for 28 domestic violence exists. Section 5. (1) The Department of Children and Family 29 30 Services shall form a work group to examine the process that the Florida Abuse Hotline uses of identifying for the initial 31

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1 abuse report the nonabusing parent as an alleged perpetrator due to failure to protect when an abuser is also identified as 2 3 an alleged perpetrator. The purpose of this examination is to assess: the value to the investigatory process of identifying 4 5 a parent as a perpetrator due to failure to protect at the б initiation of the report, and the implications of identifying 7 a nonabusing parent as the perpetrator for failure to protect 8 prior to examining the parent's actions. 9 The work group shall consist of representatives of (2) 10 the Department of Children and Family Services, the Florida 11 Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and any other interested organizations identified by the Department of Children and 12 Family Services. All participants in the work group must 13 attend meetings at their own expense. Based on the findings 14 from this examination, the work group shall develop 15 recommendations for any modifications that it determines are 16 17 needed to the Florida Abuse Hotline process relative to identifying the alleged perpetrator. A report of the findings 18 19 from the examination, the recommendations, and the 20 department's response regarding implementing the 21 recommendations shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of 22 Representatives by January 1, 2002. 23 24 Section 6. (1) A pilot program on Domestic Violence/Child Abuse Early Intervention Initiative shall be 25 conducted in designated communities, contingent upon the 26 27 allocation of funds. The goal of this initiative is to assist families in which there is domestic violence and the potential 28 29 for risk of harm to the child in the family's efforts to 30 prevent the continuation of the domestic violence and to provide a safe home for the adult victim and children through 31

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1 supports and linking existing community services to the 2 family. 3 (2) Before finding a family eligible for the program created under this section, a determination must be made that: 4 5 The family includes a parent with one or more (a) minor children or a caretaker relative with one or more minor б 7 children. 8 (b) The family has been investigated for child abuse, 9 and domestic violence has been identified in the home, but 10 court-ordered protective services were determined to be 11 unnecessary. (c) The family is at risk of welfare dependency 12 because the family's income does not exceed 200 percent of the 13 14 federal poverty level. The services or one-time payments provided are not 15 (3) considered assistance under federal law or guidelines. 16 (4) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in 17 sections 414.075, 414.085, and 414.095, Florida Statutes, a 18 19 family that meets the criteria set forth in this section is considered a needy family and is eligible under this section. 20 21 (5) Participation in the Domestic Violence/Child Abuse 22 Early Intervention Initiative must be voluntary. 23 (6) Receipt of services or a one-time payment under 24 this section does not preclude eligibility for or receipt of 25 other assistance or services under chapter 414, Florida 26 Statutes. 27 The primary components of the Domestic (7) Violence/Child Abuse Early Intervention Initiative must 28 29 include: assessing how the domestic violence is interfering 30 with the adult victim's ability to protect the child, 31 assessing how domestic violence may be interfering with the

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1 adult victim's ability to find and maintain employment, providing the family with a caseworker to support and assist 2 3 them with those needs that would enable the adult victim to provide herself and her children with a safe home and adequate 4 5 support for her children, and directing funds to specific б needs of the adult victim or child for which community 7 services are not available within the timeframe in which they 8 are needed. The functions of the caseworker may be expanded 9 based on a community's identification of the most effective 10 method for intervening with the targeted population to meet 11 the goal of the initiative. A minimum of \$300 for each family projected to be served must be earmarked to address those 12 needs for which community services are unavailable. 13 (8) The Domestic Violence/Child Abuse Early 14 Intervention Initiative pilot program may be conducted only in 15 a community where the Department of Children and Family 16 17 Services and the certified domestic violence centers have entered into the Interagency Working Agreement. Communities 18 19 designated for the pilot program must be chosen from among those communities that have Interagency Working Agreements 20 21 using a grant process. If funding is available for more than one community and rural communities have applied to 22 participate, the pilot program must be conducted in at least 23 24 one rural community. The entities entering into the Interagency Working 25 (9) 26 Agreement shall jointly provide direction and oversight to the 27 establishment and operation of the Domestic Violence/Child Abuse Early Intervention Initiative. These entities must also 28 29 collaborate with the operators of the local one-stop delivery 30 system, pursuant to section 445.009, Florida Statutes, to 31

1	ensure that linkages to employment and other supports related
2	to self-sufficiency for participating families are available.
3	(10) The Department of Children and Family Services
4	shall contract with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic
5	Violence for the administration of the Domestic Violence/Child
6	Abuse Early Intervention Initiative, which must include, but
7	is not necessarily limited to, functions related to the grant
8	application, pilot program contracts, monitoring, technical
9	assistance, and the evaluation. The Florida Coalition Against
10	Domestic Violence/Department of Children and Family Services
11	Work Group shall provide guidance to the sites where the pilot
12	program is conducted. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic
13	Violence shall also collaborate with the Agency for Workforce
14	Innovation to ensure that linkages to employment and other
15	supports related to self-sufficiency for participating
16	families are available.
17	(11) A third-party evaluation of the implementation
18	and outcomes of the Domestic Violence/Child Abuse Early
19	Intervention Initiative on the families must be conducted. At
20	a minimum, this evaluation must examine subsequent child abuse
21	hotline calls, removal of children from the home, cost of care
22	per family, services and supports provided, and services not
23	available in the community which would have assisted the
24	families in achieving the goal of this initiative. Families
25	will be tracked for outcome indicators for 1 year. A
26	preliminary evaluation report shall be submitted to the
27	Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
28	House of Representatives by January 1, 2002, and the final
29	evaluation report shall be submitted by January 1, 2003.
30	Section 7. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (6) of
31	section 741.30, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
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1 741.30 Domestic violence; injunction; powers and 2 duties of court and clerk; petition; notice and hearing; 3 temporary injunction; issuance of injunction; statewide verification system; enforcement.--4 5 (6)(a) Upon notice and hearing, the court may grant б such relief as the court deems proper, including an 7 injunction: 8 1. Restraining the respondent from committing any acts of domestic violence. 9 10 2. Awarding to the petitioner the exclusive use and 11 possession of the dwelling that the parties share or excluding the respondent from the residence of the petitioner. 12 13 On the same basis as provided in chapter 61, 3. awarding temporary custody of, or temporary visitation rights 14 with regard to, a minor child or children of the parties. 15 4. On the same basis as provided in chapter 61, 16 17 establishing temporary support for a minor child or children 18 or the petitioner. 19 5. Ordering the respondent to participate in 20 treatment, intervention, or counseling services to be paid for 21 by the respondent. When the court orders the respondent to 22 participate in a batterers' intervention program, the court, or any entity designated by the court, must provide the 23 24 respondent with a list of all certified batterers' 25 intervention programs and all programs which have submitted an application to the Department of Corrections to become 26 27 certified under s. 741.325, from which the respondent must 28 choose a program in which to participate. If there are no 29 certified batterers' intervention programs in the circuit, the court shall provide a list of acceptable programs from which 30 31 the respondent must choose a program in which to participate. 13

1 A batterer's intervention program shall provide to the court a notification of the respondent's enrollment and discharge from 2 3 the program to be placed in the case file. The notification of discharge must specify one of the following categories for 4 5 discharge and the reason for discharge: completion of the б program, rejection of services, or termination from the 7 program. 8 б. Referring a petitioner to a certified domestic 9 violence center. The court must provide the petitioner with a 10 list of certified domestic violence centers in the circuit 11 which the petitioner may contact. Ordering such other relief as the court deems 12 7. necessary for the protection of a victim of domestic violence, 13 including injunctions or directives to law enforcement 14 agencies, as provided in this section. 15 (b) The terms of an injunction restraining the 16 17 respondent under subparagraph (a)1. or ordering other relief for the protection of the victim under subparagraph (a)7. 18 19 shall remain in effect until modified or dissolved. Either party may move at any time to modify or dissolve the 20 injunction. No specific allegations are required. Such relief 21 may be granted in addition to other civil or criminal 22 remedies. A respondent who requests to dissolve an injunction 23 24 must have completed a batterer's intervention program if 25 ordered to do so as a condition of his or her injunction, unless the court finds that there is substantial justification 26 27 for the respondent's failure to complete the program. The 28 court shall not grant the respondent's request to dissolve the 29 injunction unless there is substantial justification for the 30 respondent's failure to complete the program.

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1	Section 8. (1) The Department of Children and Family
2	Services and the Family Law Section of The Florida Bar shall
3	jointly conduct an examination of the current court processes
4	for requiring domestic violence perpetrators to participate in
5	the batterer's intervention program and potential mechanisms
6	for requiring the participation of domestic violence
7	perpetrators who are not captured by the current court
8	processes, with a particular focus on domestic violence
9	perpetrators in the dependency court process. Based on the
10	findings from this examination, the Family Law Section of The
11	Florida Bar shall develop recommendations for requiring
12	domestic violence perpetrators identified through the
13	dependency court process to participate in the batterer's
14	intervention program. Other domestic violence perpetrators
15	that currently are not captured in the court processes for
16	requiring participation may also be identified and included at
17	the discretion of the Department of Children and Family
18	Services and the Family Law Section of The Florida Bar. This
19	examination and development of recommendations must be
20	conducted in collaboration with the Department of Corrections'
21	Batterer's Intervention Program, the Florida Coalition Against
22	Domestic Violence, the Office of State Courts Administrator,
23	the Dependency Court Improvement Project, representation from
24	a batterer's intervention program, and any other interested
25	organization identified by the Department of Children and
26	Family Services and the Family Law Section of The Florida Bar.
27	The Department of Children and Family Services shall provide
28	meeting space for the work group and staff to prepare minutes
29	of the work group's meetings. The Family Law Section of The
30	Florida Bar shall facilitate the work group's examination and
31	development of recommendations and shall prepare a report of
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1 the recommendations. All participants in the process must attend meetings at their own expense. A report of the 2 3 recommendations shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of 4 5 Representatives by January 1, 2002. б The Department of Corrections shall examine the (2) 7 current mechanisms for monitoring participants' completion of 8 the batterer's intervention program and shall determine the 9 extent to which these mechanisms are ensuring completion of 10 the program. Based on the findings from this examination, the 11 Department of Corrections shall develop recommendations for ensuring participants' completion of the batterer's 12 intervention program. This examination and development of 13 recommendations must be conducted in collaboration with the 14 Department of Children and Family Services, the Florida 15 Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Dependency Court 16 17 Improvement Project, the Office of State Courts Administrator, representation from a batterer's intervention program, and any 18 19 other interested organization identified by the Department of 20 Corrections. All participants in the process must attend meetings at their own expense. A report of the recommendations 21 shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the 22 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by 23 24 January 1, 2002. 25 (3) The work groups established to conduct each of the 26 examinations delineated in subsections (1) and (2) shall 27 collaborate and share information to the greatest extent 28 possible. The entities participating in each of the 29 examinations must conduct a minimum of one joint meeting to 30 review the findings and collaborate in the development of the 31 recommendations.

1 Section 9. Paragraph (g) is added to subsection (1) of 2 section 39.903, Florida Statutes, to read: 3 39.903 Duties and functions of the department with respect to domestic violence .--4 5 (1) The department shall: б (g) Promote and facilitate the negotiation and 7 execution of the Interagency Working Agreement between the 8 district offices of the department and the certified domestic 9 violence centers for the development of partnerships in 10 working with families in which child abuse and domestic 11 violence exist. Section 10. Subsection (8) is added to section 39.904, 12 Florida Statutes, to read: 13 39.904 Report to the Legislature on the status of 14 domestic violence cases .-- On or before January 1 of each year, 15 the department shall furnish to the President of the Senate 16 17 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report on the status of domestic violence in this state, which report 18 19 shall include, but is not limited to, the following: 20 (8) An identification of the certified domestic 21 violence centers and districts that have executed the 22 Interagency Working Agreement and a description of the partnership initiatives implemented for working with families 23 24 in which child abuse and domestic violence exist. 25 Section 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001. 26 27 28 29 30 31 17

SENATE SUMMARY
Requires the Department of Children and Family Services and the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, contingent upon the appropriation of funds, to provide training on domestic violence and child protection to specified professionals by a specified date. Provides for the content of such training. Requires the department to assess the need for special training of staff members and professionals who interact with families in which there is domestic violence and child abuse. Requires collaboration with other groups and state agencies. Requires a report to the Governor and the Legislature.
Requires the department to conduct pilot programs in which department staff perform the role of domestic violence consultants participating in protective investigative units. Specifies duties of the consultants. Specifies the qualifications and the minimum number of such consultants per county. Provides for their compensation. Requires the department to collect and analyze data on the effectiveness of the consultants. Requires a report to the Governor and the Legislature.
Provides guidelines for administrative rules or operating procedures relating to protective investigations of families in which domestic violence exists. Requires the department to form a work group concerned with the procedures for identifying perpetrators of child abuse. Requires a report to the Governor and the Legislature.

Provides for pilot programs of a Domestic Violence/Child Abuse Early Intervention Initiative. Provides eligibility guidelines for families who are to be served by the program. Provides components of the initiative. Provides eligibility standards for communities that may be sites for such initiatives. Requires entities that enter into an Interagency Working Agreement to provide joint direction and oversight and to collaborate with the local one-stop delivery system. Requires the department to contract with the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence for the administration of the initiative. Requires the coalition to collaborate with the Agency for Workforce Innovation. Requires a third-party evaluation of the initiative. Requires a preliminary and a final report to the Governor and the Legislature.

Requires batterer's intervention programs to provide to the court certain documents for the case file. Provides prerequisites to dissolving an injunction against a respondent in a domestic violence case. Requires the department to conduct an examination of current court processes for requiring domestic violence perpetrators to participate in the batterer's intervention program and of methods for requiring perpetrators who are not captured by the current court processes to participate in such a 18

program. Requires collaboration with specified agencies. Requires a report to the Governor and the Legislature. Requires the Department of Corrections to examine the current mechanisms for monitoring participants' completion of the batterer's intervention program. Requires collaboration with specified agencies. Requires a report to the Governor and the Legislature. Requires collaboration and at least one joint meeting of various work groups.
Revises the list of duties of the department with respect to domestic violence. Amends the list of subject matter to be included in the department's annual report to the Legislature on the status of domestic violence cases.