



1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to domestic violence centers; amending s.  
3 39.903, F.S.; removing a requirement that the Department  
4 of Children and Family Services approve or reject  
5 applications for funding received from domestic violence  
6 centers; providing for the provision of technical  
7 assistance and the distribution of funds for domestic  
8 violence centers by a statewide association whose primary  
9 purpose is to provide technical assistance to certified  
10 domestic violence centers; providing that such association  
11 shall implement, administer, and evaluate the services  
12 provided by the certified domestic violence centers;  
13 limiting the services and funding to certified domestic  
14 violence centers; amending s. 39.905, F.S.; providing that  
15 the Department of Children and Family Services shall  
16 approve, rather than develop, a funding distribution  
17 formula for state funds provided to certified domestic  
18 violence centers; providing requirements for contracts  
19 between the statewide association and certified domestic  
20 violence centers; providing an effective date.

21  
22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

23  
24 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and subsection  
25 (7) of section 39.903, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

26 39.903 Duties and functions of the department with respect  
27 to domestic violence.--

28 (1) The department shall:



29           (c) Receive and approve or reject applications for  
30 certification of domestic violence centers, ~~and receive and~~  
31 ~~approve or reject applications for funding of domestic violence~~  
32 ~~centers. When approving funding for a newly certified domestic~~  
33 ~~violence center, the department shall make every effort to~~  
34 ~~minimize any adverse economic impact on existing certified~~  
35 ~~centers or services provided within the same district. In order~~  
36 ~~to minimize duplication of services, the department shall make~~  
37 ~~every effort to encourage subcontracting relationships with~~  
38 ~~existing centers within the district. If any of the required~~  
39 services are exempted from certification by the department under  
40 s. 39.905(1)(c), the center shall not receive funding for those  
41 services.

42           (7) The department shall contract with a statewide  
43 association whose primary purpose is to represent and provide  
44 technical assistance to certified domestic violence centers.  
45 This association shall implement, administer, and evaluate all  
46 services provided by the certified domestic violence centers.  
47 The association shall receive and approve or reject applications  
48 for funding of certified domestic violence centers. When  
49 approving funding for a newly certified domestic violence  
50 center, the association shall make every effort to minimize any  
51 adverse economic impact on existing certified domestic violence  
52 centers or services provided within the same service area. In  
53 order to minimize duplication of services, the association shall  
54 make every effort to encourage subcontracting relationships with  
55 existing certified domestic violence centers within the same  
56 service area. In distributing funds allocated by the Legislature



57 for certified domestic violence centers, the association shall  
 58 use a formula approved by the department as specified in s.  
 59 39.905(7)(a) receive 2 percent of the Domestic Violence Trust  
 60 Fund for this purpose.

61 Section 2. Subsection (7) of section 39.905, Florida  
 62 Statutes, is amended to read:

63 39.905 Domestic violence centers.--

64 (7)(a) All funds collected and appropriated to the  
 65 domestic violence program for certified domestic violence  
 66 centers shall be distributed annually ~~by the department to each~~  
 67 ~~district~~ according to an allocation formula approved ~~determined~~  
 68 by the department. In developing the formula, the factors of  
 69 ~~department shall consider~~ population, a rural characteristics,  
 70 ~~and~~ geographical area ~~factor~~, and the incidence of domestic  
 71 violence shall be considered.

72 (b) A contract between the statewide association a  
 73 ~~district~~ and a certified domestic violence center shall contain  
 74 provisions assuring the availability and geographic  
 75 accessibility of services throughout the district. For this  
 76 purpose, a center may distribute funds through subcontracts or  
 77 to center satellites, provided such arrangements and any  
 78 subcontracts are approved by the statewide association ~~district.~~

79 Section 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 2004.