HB 1421 2004 A bill to be entitled

1

2

3

4 5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16 17

18

19

20

An act relating to work experience and job training for noncustodial parents; creating s. 414.385, F.S.; providing a definition; establishing a work experience and job training program for noncustodial parents; requiring the Agency for Workforce Innovation to administer the program; providing criteria for participation in the program; providing a penalty for nonparticipation under certain circumstances; providing requirements for a service provider; requiring the service provider to offer assistance in obtaining federal earned income tax credits under certain circumstances; specifying prohibited activities of a service provider; directing the agency to enter into private contracts for the provision of services; providing selection criteria for providers under such contracts; providing agency rulemaking authority; amending ss. 409.2564, 61.13, and 61.14, F.S., to conform; amending s. 28.101, F.S.; imposing an additional dissolution of marriage filing charge; requiring the clerk of court to transfer charge proceeds to the agency for certain purposes; providing an effective date.

21 22

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

24

25

26

23

Section 414.385, Florida Statutes, is created Section 1. to read:

27

28

414.385 Work experience and job training program for noncustodial parents. --

Page 1 of 7

(1) For the purposes of this section, "agency" means the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

(2) A work experience and job training program for noncustodial parents is established. The program shall be administered by the agency.

- (3) An obligor is eligible for entrance into the program if, 30 days after any order for support, the obligor is still unemployed.
- (4) If the court orders an obligor to participate in the work experience and job training program, the obligor must register with the local program service provider.
- (5) Every obligor ordered into the work experience and job training program must participate in work experience, peer support, job training, job placement, or educational activities for up to 40 hours per week.
- (6) Any obligor ordered to participate in the program under this section who fails without good cause to participate as ordered by the court may be held in contempt.
- (7) The local work experience and job training program service provider shall, directly or through contract:
- (a) If necessary, enroll the obligor in a mandatory job training readiness program of up to 4 weeks in duration.
 - (b) Assess the obligor's employment skills.
- (c) Assess the obligor's educational and literacy skills and enroll the obligor in a local adult educational program if necessary.
- (d) Perform job search assistance and job matching functions, which shall include on-the-job training, to combine skill-building and immediate income.

(e) Monitor the progress of the obligor's employment.

- (f) Offer a peer support program to educate the obligor about the responsibilities of a noncustodial parent, to encourage positive parental behavior and sexual responsibility, and to enhance the obligor's life skills.
- (g) Offer support services to custodial and noncustodial parents to resolve conflicts concerning visitation, household expenditures, lifestyles, child care, and school arrangements.
- (h) Advise the court when the obligor becomes employed and of the obligor's continuing employment progress every 30 days.
- (i) Counsel the obligor about job retention and advancement.
- (j) Offer follow-up and support services for a period of 6 months.
- (8) If the obligor becomes employed before starting the program or becomes employed through the efforts of the local work experience and job training program service provider but cannot earn an adequate wage level for court-ordered child support as determined by s. 61.30 or otherwise by a court of competent jurisdiction, the service provider shall assist the obligor in obtaining federal earned income tax credits and, if the wages and the earned income tax credits are less than an adequate amount for the court-ordered child support, shall attempt to obtain additional or improved employment for the obligor. To determine whether the obligor has an adequate wage level, the following criteria shall be considered:
 - (a) All earnings, income, and resources of the obligor.
 - (b) The ability of the obligor to earn.
 - (c) The reasonable necessities of the obligor.

(d) The needs of the dependent child for whom support is sought.

- (9) The local program service provider shall not:
- (a) Charge the obligor for services obtained under this program; or
 - (b) Enroll the obligor in a community work program.
- (10) The agency shall contract with a private service provider for job training, placement, and support services. The agency shall develop a request for proposal to include procedures and criteria for the competitive acceptance of proposals from interested service providers. Each interested service provider seeking to participate in the program pursuant to this section must be able to demonstrate:
- (a) Experience in executing large-scale social experiments.
- (b) Experience in doing research involving waivers of federal AFDC, JOBS, and Child Support Enforcement policies.
- (c) An understanding of the demographics and experiences of economically disadvantaged noncustodial parents.
- (d) Experience in working directly with state programs designed to assist disadvantaged noncustodial parents.
- (11) The agency, in consultation with the Department of Revenue, shall adopt rules to implement this section.
- Section 2. Subsection (7) of section 409.2564, Florida
 111 Statutes, is amended to read:
 - 409.2564 Actions for support.--
 - (7) In a judicial circuit with a work experience and job training program for noncustodial parents as established in s. 414.385 pilot project, if the obligor is a noncustodial parent

Page 4 of 7

of a child receiving public assistance as defined in this chapter, is unemployed or underemployed or has no income, then the court shall order the obligor to seek employment, if the obligor is able to engage in employment, and to immediately notify the court upon obtaining employment, upon obtaining any income, or upon obtaining any ownership of any asset with a value of \$500 or more. If the obligor is still unemployed 30 days after any order for support, the court shall order the obligor to enroll in a work experience, job placement, and job training program.

- Section 3. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section 61.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 61.13 Custody and support of children; visitation rights; power of court in making orders.--

(1)

(e) In a judicial circuit with a work experience and job training program for noncustodial parents as established in s. 414.385 pilot project, if the obligor is unemployed or has no income and does not have an account at a financial institution, then the court shall order the obligor to seek employment, if the obligor is able to engage in employment, and to immediately notify the court upon obtaining employment, upon obtaining any income, or upon obtaining any ownership of any asset with a value of \$500 or more. If the obligor is still unemployed 30 days after any order for support, the court may order the obligor to enroll in the work experience, job placement, and job training pilot program for noncustodial parents as established in s. 414.385 409.2565, if the obligor is eligible for entrance into the pilot program.

Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 61.14, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

61.14 Enforcement and modification of support, maintenance, or alimony agreements or orders.--

149 (5)

- (b) In a judicial circuit with a work experience and job training program for noncustodial parents as established in s.

 414.385 pilot project, if at the time of the contempt hearing the obligor is unemployed or has no income, then the court shall order the obligor to seek employment, if the obligor is able to engage in employment, and to immediately notify the court upon obtaining employment, upon obtaining any income, or upon obtaining any ownership of any asset with a value of \$500 or more. If the obligor is still unemployed 30 days after any order for support, the court may order the obligor to enroll in a work experience, job placement, and job training program for noncustodial parents as established in s. 414.385 409.2565, if the obligor is eligible for entrance into the pilot program.
- Section 5. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (1) of section 28.101, Florida Statutes, to read:
- 28.101 Petitions and records of dissolution of marriage; additional charges.--
- (1) When a party petitions for a dissolution of marriage, in addition to the filing charges in s. 28.241, the clerk shall collect and receive:
- (e) A charge of \$25. On a monthly basis, the clerk shall transfer all the moneys collected pursuant to this paragraph to the Agency of Workforce Innovation for the specific purpose of

HB 1421
funding the work experience and job training program for
noncustodial parents established in s. 414.385.
Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

Page 7 of 7