

HB 1817

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to juvenile justice; providing for a  
3 parental involvement pilot project in Orange County;  
4 authorizing the Department of Juvenile Justice to allow  
5 certain parents to attend and participate in a course of  
6 parenting education classes in lieu of paying certain  
7 required fees associated with the cost of a child's care  
8 or supervision by the department; limiting such authority  
9 to the 2004-2005 fiscal year and to cases involving orders  
10 of the circuit court in and for Orange County; authorizing  
11 the department to develop a formula for specifying the  
12 number of participation hours in lieu of fees; requiring  
13 the department to provide notification about the option to  
14 participate in the pilot project; authorizing the  
15 department to contract with a private or public entity to  
16 provide parenting education classes in certain  
17 circumstances; directing the department to waive fees upon  
18 proof by the parent of successful completion of the course  
19 of parenting education classes; limiting the amount of  
20 fees that may be waived; prohibiting issuance of any order  
21 of the circuit court in and for Orange County reducing or  
22 waiving the required fees during the 2004-2005 fiscal  
23 year; providing exceptions; requiring the department to  
24 identify measurable outcomes for the pilot project;  
25 requiring a report; providing applicability; providing  
26 that the parent is responsible for costs associated with  
27 the parenting education classes; providing a definition;  
28 providing an effective date.

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

31  
32 Section 1. Orange County Parental Involvement Pilot  
33 Project.--

34 (1) In accordance with the provisions of subsection (4)  
35 and for the 2004-2005 fiscal year only, the Department of  
36 Juvenile Justice is authorized to allow any parent who, pursuant  
37 to an order of the circuit court in and for Orange County, is  
38 subject to the provisions of s. 985.215(6), s. 985.231(1)(b), or  
39 s. 985.233(4)(d), Florida Statutes, relating to the fees  
40 associated with the cost of a child's care or supervision by the  
41 department, to attend and participate in a course of parenting  
42 education classes that is approved by the department in lieu of  
43 paying all or a portion of such fees. The department is  
44 authorized to develop a reasonable and uniform formula for  
45 specifying a number of participation hours in lieu of the \$5 per  
46 day fee.

47 (2) The department shall notify parents who, pursuant to  
48 an order of the circuit court in and for Orange County, are  
49 obliged to pay fees associated with the cost of the child's care  
50 or supervision by the department, of the option to participate  
51 in the pilot project by attending and participating in a course  
52 of parenting education classes. The notification shall include a  
53 description of the course contents and the number of  
54 participation hours that the parent will be required to  
55 successfully complete in order to receive a waiver of such fees  
56 pursuant to subsection (4).

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57 (a) For any such order issued during the 2004-2005 fiscal  
 58 year, the department shall provide the notification as soon as  
 59 is practicable after the issuance of the order.

60 (b) The department shall make reasonable efforts to  
 61 provide the notification to parents who are the subject of such  
 62 orders entered prior to the 2004-2005 fiscal year and who have a  
 63 current or delinquent obligation to pay the required fees.

64 (3) If the Department of Juvenile Justice does not already  
 65 have such classes in place and available in Orange County, the  
 66 department may contract with a private or public entity in  
 67 Orange County to provide classes in parenting education for  
 68 purposes of the pilot project. The private or public entity must  
 69 have appropriate expertise in providing parenting education.

70 (4) Upon the parent providing proof to the department of  
 71 successful completion of the course of parenting education  
 72 classes, the department shall waive the costs associated with  
 73 the child's care or supervision by the department in accordance  
 74 with the formula described in subsection (1). However, the value  
 75 of the waiver may not exceed \$450.

76 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of s. 985.215(6), s.  
 77 985.231(1)(b), or s. 985.233(4)(d), Florida Statutes, during the  
 78 2004-2005 fiscal year, no order shall issue from the circuit  
 79 court in and for Orange County purporting to reduce or waive any  
 80 required fees associated with the cost of the child's care or  
 81 supervision by the department, except as provided in subsection  
 82 (6).

83 (6)(a) The court may reduce or waive such fees in  
 84 circumstances where the court makes a finding on the record that  
 85 the parent was the victim of the delinquent act or violation of

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86 law for which the child has been placed under the care or  
87 supervision of the department and that the parent is cooperating  
88 or has cooperated with the investigation of the act or  
89 violation.

90 (b) The court may authorize the parent to participate in a  
91 course of parenting education classes in lieu of paying all or a  
92 portion of the required fees, subject to the provisions of  
93 subsection (4). If the parent's obligation to pay fees exceeds  
94 \$450, the court may reduce or waive the remaining fees in  
95 accordance with the provisions of s. 985.215(6), s.  
96 985.231(1)(b), or s. 985.233(4)(d), Florida Statutes, upon  
97 verification by the department that the parent has successfully  
98 completed the course of parenting education classes.

99 (7) The department shall identify measurable outcomes for  
100 the pilot project, including, but not limited to, the following:

101 (a) The number of parents who participate in parenting  
102 education classes in lieu of paying the required fees.

103 (b) The number of parents who successfully complete such  
104 classes.

105 (c) Whether any child of a participating parent is  
106 referred to the department during the 2004-2005 fiscal year  
107 subsequent to the referral associated with the parent's initial  
108 participation in the parenting education classes.

109  
110 The department shall report these outcomes, together with the  
111 outcomes of any other measures deemed appropriate, to the  
112 Legislature and Governor by October 1, 2005. The report shall  
113 also indicate the total amount of fees collected pursuant to ss.

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114 985.215(6), 985.231(1)(b), and 985.233(4)(d), Florida Statutes,  
115 in Orange County during fiscal years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005.

116 (8) This section shall not apply if there is a court order  
117 specifically prohibiting participation in lieu of payment. This  
118 section applies to any order or other obligation for the payment  
119 of fees as described in subsection (1) that is current or  
120 delinquent during the 2004-2005 fiscal year. It shall be the  
121 parent's responsibility to bear all costs associated with the  
122 parent's participation in the parenting education classes. For  
123 purposes of this section, the term "parent" means the mother,  
124 father, or legal guardian of a child.

125 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.