

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the organization and operation of the Department of Children and Family Services; amending s. 20.19, F.S.; providing for the establishment of zones; providing that district budget transfer authority shall be as set out in the General Appropriations Act or the implementing bill; repealing s. 402.33(10), F.S., relating to the permitted uses of fee collections in excess of the amount of appropriations; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 20.19, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20.19 Department of Children and Family Services.--There is created a Department of Children and Family Services.

(5) SERVICE DISTRICTS AND ZONES.--

(a) The department shall plan and administer its programs of family services through service districts and subdistricts composed of the following counties:

1. District 1.--Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton Counties.

2. District 2, Subdistrict A.--Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, and Gulf Counties.

3. District 2, Subdistrict B.--Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison, and Taylor Counties.

4. District 3.--Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette, Dixie, Columbia, Gilchrist, Levy, Union, Bradford, Putnam, and Alachua Counties.

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- 30 5. District 4.--Baker, Nassau, Duval, Clay, and St. Johns
- 31 Counties.
- 32 6. District 5.--Pasco and Pinellas Counties.
- 33 7. District 6.--Hillsborough and Manatee Counties.
- 34 8. District 7, Subdistrict A.--Seminole, Orange, and
- 35 Osceola Counties.
- 36 9. District 7, Subdistrict B.--Brevard County.
- 37 10. District 8, Subdistrict A.--Sarasota and DeSoto
- 38 Counties.
- 39 11. District 8, Subdistrict B.--Charlotte, Lee, Glades,
- 40 Hendry, and Collier Counties.
- 41 12. District 9.--Palm Beach County.
- 42 13. District 10.--Broward County.
- 43 14. District 11, Subdistrict A.--Miami-Dade County.
- 44 15. District 11, Subdistrict B.--Monroe County.
- 45 16. District 12.--Flagler and Volusia Counties.
- 46 17. District 13.--Marion, Citrus, Hernando, Sumter, and
- 47 Lake Counties.
- 48 18. District 14.--Polk, Hardee, and Highlands Counties.
- 49 19. District 15.--Indian River, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, and
- 50 Martin Counties.

51 (b)1. The secretary shall appoint a district administrator  
 52 for each of the service districts. The district administrator  
 53 shall serve at the pleasure of the secretary and shall perform  
 54 such duties as assigned by the secretary. ~~Subject to the~~  
 55 ~~approval of the secretary, such duties shall include~~  
 56 ~~transferring up to 10 percent of the total district budget, the~~  
 57 ~~provisions of ss. 216.292 and 216.351 notwithstanding.~~

58 2. Any district ~~For the 2003-2004 fiscal year only, the~~

59 transfer authority related to the budget that is beyond the  
 60 provisions of chapter 216 ~~provided in this subsection~~ must be  
 61 specifically identified ~~appropriated~~ in the ~~2003-2004~~ General  
 62 Appropriations Act or its implementing bill ~~and shall be~~  
 63 ~~pursuant to the requirements of s. 216.292. This subparagraph~~  
 64 ~~expires July 1, 2004.~~

65 (c) The secretary may also establish administrative zones  
 66 responsible for providing administrative support, including  
 67 programmatic technical assistance, budget and financial  
 68 services, data collection an information technology services,  
 69 and such other duties as the secretary assigns. The zones shall  
 70 be composed of the following districts and counties:

71 1. Panhandle Zone.--

72 a. District 1.--Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton  
 73 Counties.

74 b. District 2, Subdistrict A.--Holmes, Washington, Bay,  
 75 Jackson, Calhoun, and Gulf Counties.

76 c. District 2, Subdistrict B.--Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin,  
 77 Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson, Madison, and Taylor Counties.

78 2. Northeast Zone.--

79 a. District 3.--Hamilton, Suwannee, Lafayette, Dixie,  
 80 Columbia, Gilchrist, Levy, Union, Bradford, Putnam, and Alachua  
 81 Counties.

82 b. District 4.--Baker, Nassau, Duval, Clay, and St. Johns  
 83 Counties.

84 c. District 12.--Flagler and Volusia Counties.

85 3. The Suncoast Zone.--

86 a. District 5.--Pasco and Pinellas Counties.

87 b. District 6.--Hillsborough and Manatee Counties.

- 88        4. Central Zone.--
- 89        a. District 7, Subdistrict A.--Seminole, Orange, and
- 90        Osceola Counties.
- 91        b. District 7, Subdistrict B.--Brevard County.
- 92        c. District 13.--Marion, Citrus, Hernando, Sumter, and
- 93        Lake Counties.
- 94        d. District 14.--Polk, Hardee, and Highlands Counties.
- 95        5. Southern Zone.--
- 96        a. District 8, Subdistrict A.--Sarasota and Desoto
- 97        Counties.
- 98        b. District 8, Subdistrict B.--Charlotte, Lee, Glades,
- 99        Hendry, and Collier Counties.
- 100       c. District 9.--Palm Beach County.
- 101       d. District 10.--Broward County.
- 102       e. District 15.--Indian River, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, and
- 103       Martin Counties.
- 104       6. District 11 Zone.--
- 105       a. District 11, Subdistrict A.--Miami-Dade County.
- 106       b. District 11, Subdistrict B.--Monroe County.
- 107       ~~(d)~~(e) Each fiscal year the secretary shall, in
- 108       consultation with the relevant employee representatives, develop
- 109       projections of the number of child abuse and neglect cases and
- 110       shall include in the department's legislative budget request a
- 111       specific appropriation for funds and positions for the next
- 112       fiscal year in order to provide an adequate number of full-time
- 113       equivalent:
- 114              1. Child protection investigation workers so that
- 115       caseloads do not exceed the Child Welfare League Standards by
- 116       more than two cases; and

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117           2. Child protection case workers so that caseloads do not  
 118 exceed the Child Welfare League Standards by more than two  
 119 cases.

120           Section 2. Subsection (10) of section 402.33, Florida  
 121 Statutes, is repealed:

122           402.33 Department authority to charge fees for services  
 123 provided.--

124           ~~(10) Unless otherwise specified by the Legislature, fee  
 125 collections, including third party reimbursements, in excess of  
 126 fee supported appropriations may be used in conformance with the  
 127 provisions of chapter 216 to fund nonrecurring expenditures for  
 128 direct client services and to fund administrative costs of  
 129 improving the fee collection program of the department. No more  
 130 than one sixth of the amount of collections in excess of the  
 131 amount of appropriations may be used to fund such improvements  
 132 to the program. Priority consideration for the expenditure of  
 133 excess collections shall be given to those districts and  
 134 programs most responsible for the excess. A plan for the use of  
 135 excess collections not spent in the fiscal year in which  
 136 collected shall be subject to approval by the Executive Office  
 137 of the Governor within 90 days from the end of the state fiscal  
 138 year in which the excess occurs.~~

139           Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.