

By Senator Bullard

39-544-04

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to child support enforcement;  
3           amending s. 409.2557, F.S.; providing that  
4           certain child enforcement demonstration  
5           projects are no longer demonstration projects,  
6           but local solutions to providing such  
7           enforcement; requiring local providers of child  
8           support enforcement services to comply with  
9           state and federal policies; providing duties  
10          and responsibilities of the Department of  
11          Revenue regarding funding and compliance  
12          monitoring of these child support enforcement  
13          services; providing an effective date.

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

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17           Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 409.2557, Florida  
18 Statutes, is amended to read:

19           409.2557 State agency for administering child support  
20 enforcement program.--

21           (2)(a) The department in its capacity as the state  
22 Title IV-D agency shall have the authority to take actions  
23 necessary to carry out the public policy of ensuring that  
24 children are maintained from the resources of their parents to  
25 the extent possible. The department's authority shall include,  
26 but not be limited to, the establishment of paternity or  
27 support obligations, as well as the modification, enforcement,  
28 and collection of support obligations.

29           (b) Notwithstanding chapter 85-178, Laws of Florida,  
30 any child support enforcement demonstration projects created  
31 under that law and still in operation on January 15, 2003, are

1 not considered demonstration projects but are local solutions  
2 to providing child support enforcement services in those  
3 counties. Therefore, the department shall continue to fund  
4 those operations under a cost-reimbursement contract with the  
5 local providers responsible for delivering, administering, and  
6 managing comprehensive child support enforcement activities in  
7 those counties.

8 (c) The local provider must meet all state and federal  
9 reporting requirements in a timely manner, provide all  
10 services required by the state's Title IV-D state plan, and  
11 provide the services in accordance with state and federal  
12 policies. The operations of the local provider which pertain  
13 to the provision of Title IV-D services are subject to review  
14 and audit by state and federal officials responsible for the  
15 Title IV-D program functions. The department may withhold  
16 funds or terminate the local provider's contract if the  
17 provider fails to comply with the functions and  
18 responsibilities of the federal Title IV-D program.

19 (d) Regardless of whether services are provided  
20 directly by the department or by contractual agreement with a  
21 local agency, the department shall retain responsibility for  
22 ensuring that all services required by the state Title IV-D  
23 program are provided in accordance with applicable federal and  
24 state laws.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
26 law.

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SENATE SUMMARY

Provides that certain child enforcement demonstration projects are no longer demonstration projects, but local solutions to providing such enforcement. Directs local providers of child support enforcement services to deliver all services required by the state plan and to be in compliance with federal and state policies. Provides duties and responsibilities of the Department of Revenue regarding funding and compliance monitoring of these child support enforcement services.