

By Senator Wise

5-673A-06

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to persons with disabilities;
3 creating the Interagency Services Committee for
4 Persons with Disabilities; providing
5 legislative intent; providing that the
6 committee be staffed by member agencies of the
7 committee; providing for the membership of the
8 committee; providing duties and
9 responsibilities for the committee; requiring
10 the committee to submit a report to the
11 Governor and the Legislature; providing an
12 effective date.

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

16 Section 1. Interagency Services Committee for Persons
17 with Disabilities.--

18 (1) There is created the Interagency Services
19 Committee for Persons with Disabilities. It is the intent of
20 the Legislature that the committee develop and implement a
21 coordinated, multidisciplinary, and interagency intervention
22 service system for young persons with disabilities.
23 Specifically, the intervention service system is intended to
24 eliminate barriers that impede educational opportunities and
25 to enhance educational opportunities leading to future
26 employment for persons with disabilities who are between the
27 ages of 3 years and 30 years.

28 (2)(a) The committee shall consist of the following 11
29 members: the Commissioner of Education, the director of the
30 Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the director of of the
31 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Secretary of Health

1 Care Administration, the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of
2 Children and Family Services, the director of Workforce
3 Florida, Inc., the director of the Division of Blind Services,
4 the director of the Commission for the Transportation
5 Disadvantaged, the director of the Florida Housing Finance
6 Corporation, and the director of Individuals in Supported
7 Employment within the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.
8 The members of the committee shall designate one of its
9 members as chairperson.

10 (b) The Department of Children and Family Services,
11 the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and the
12 Agency for Persons with Disabilities shall provide staff
13 support to the committee. Meetings and records of the
14 committee are subject to ss. 119.07 and 286.011, Florida
15 Statutes. The chairperson may designate one of the agencies
16 providing staff support to perform administrative
17 responsibilities for the committee. The committee may invite
18 technical experts to appear at meetings and provide
19 information.

20 (c) Committee members shall serve without compensation
21 but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in
22 carrying out their duties as provided in s. 112.061, Florida
23 Statutes. Members who are public officers or employees shall
24 be reimbursed through the budget entity through which they are
25 compensated. Persons invited to appear and speak at committee
26 meetings are also entitled to receive per diem and travel
27 expenses.

28 (3) The committee shall:

29 (a) Identify and assist in removing federal and state
30 barriers to the local coordination of services that are
31 provided to persons with disabilities.

1 (b) Identify adequate, equitable, and flexible funding
2 sources in order to streamline services that are provided to
3 persons with disabilities.

4 (c) Develop guidelines for implementing policies to
5 ensure a comprehensive and coordinated system for all services
6 provided by state and local agencies, including
7 multidisciplinary assessment practices for persons with
8 disabilities.

9 (d) Develop an evaluation process to measure the
10 success of state and local interagency efforts in improving
11 the quality and coordination of services that are provided to
12 persons with disabilities.

13 (e) Identify current systems for dispute resolution
14 and recommend guidelines to coordinate the systems.

15 (f) Encourage each governmental agency, school
16 district, university, and community college to review
17 employment policies for the purpose of identifying jobs and
18 tasks that can be accomplished by individuals with
19 disabilities and to develop job classifications that identify
20 preferred employment for persons with disabilities.

21 (g) Identify and eliminate state-imposed work
22 disincentives.

23 (h) Eliminate barriers that impede options for living
24 within a community.

25 (i) Assist in the revision of special competencies for
26 earning a high school diploma and course requirements
27 necessary for employment-related competencies.

28 (j) Ensure that employment goals are a primary
29 objective of each support plan.

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1 (k) Develop incentives or preferences in the state
2 procurement process for businesses that employ persons with
3 disabilities.

4 (l) Develop collaborative relationships with federal,
5 state, and local agencies in order to identify and align
6 resources and eliminate barriers for expanding and improving
7 inclusive options for living within a community.

8 (m) Coordinate transition services statewide for
9 students with disabilities as they prepare to leave secondary
10 schools and access postsecondary institutions for training and
11 subsequent employment.

12 (n) Develop an incentive system that rewards secondary
13 and postsecondary schools that place young persons with
14 disabilities into competitive employment.

15 (o) Ensure that data systems transfer data between
16 agencies and that each agency reports annually on its efforts
17 to employ persons with disabilities.

18 (4) The committee shall present a report of its
19 findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of
20 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
21 March 1, 2007. The committee is abolished on June 1, 2007.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.

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25 SENATE SUMMARY

26 Creates the Interagency Services Committee for Persons
27 with Disabilities. Provides legislative intent. Provides
28 that the committee be staffed by member agencies of the
29 committee. Provides for the membership of the committee.
30 Specifies duties and responsibilities for the committee.
31 Requires the committee to submit a report to the Governor
and the Legislature.