

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

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

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

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

27 (2) (a) The committee shall consist of the following 11
 28 members: the Commissioner of Education, the director of the

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29 Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the director of the
30 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Secretary of Health
31 Care Administration, the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of
32 Children and Family Services, the director of Workforce Florida,
33 Inc., the director of the Division of Blind Services, the
34 director of the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged,
35 the director of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, and the
36 director of Individuals in Supported Employment within the
37 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The members of the
38 committee shall designate one of its members as chairperson.

39 (b) The Department of Children and Family Services, the
40 Department of Education, the Department of Health, and the
41 Agency for Persons with Disabilities shall provide staff support
42 to the committee. Meetings and records of the committee are
43 subject to ss. 119.07 and 286.011, Florida Statutes. The
44 chairperson may designate one of the agencies providing staff
45 support to perform administrative responsibilities for the
46 committee. The committee may invite technical experts to appear
47 at meetings and provide information.

48 (c) Committee members shall serve without compensation but
49 are entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in carrying
50 out their duties as provided in s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.
51 Members who are public officers or employees shall be reimbursed
52 through the budget entity through which they are compensated.
53 Persons invited to appear and speak at committee meetings are
54 also entitled to receive per diem and travel expenses.

55 (3) The committee shall:

56 (a) Identify and assist in removing federal and state

57 barriers to the local coordination of services that are provided
58 to persons with disabilities.

59 (b) Identify adequate, equitable, and flexible funding
60 sources in order to streamline services that are provided to
61 persons with disabilities.

62 (c) Develop guidelines for implementing policies to ensure
63 a comprehensive and coordinated system for all services provided
64 by state and local agencies, including multidisciplinary
65 assessment practices for persons with disabilities.

66 (d) Develop an evaluation process to measure the success
67 of state and local interagency efforts in improving the quality
68 and coordination of services that are provided to persons with
69 disabilities.

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

72 (f) Encourage each governmental agency, school district,
73 university, and community college to review employment policies
74 for the purpose of identifying jobs and tasks that can be
75 accomplished by individuals with disabilities and to develop job
76 classifications that identify preferred employment for persons
77 with disabilities.

78 (g) Identify and eliminate state-imposed work
79 disincentives.

80 (h) Eliminate barriers that impede options for living
81 within a community.

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

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

87 (k) Develop incentives or preferences in the state
88 procurement process for businesses that employ persons with
89 disabilities.

90 (l) Develop collaborative relationships with federal,
91 state, and local agencies in order to identify and align
92 resources for and eliminate barriers to expanding and improving
93 inclusive options for living within a community.

94 (m) Coordinate transition services statewide for students
95 with disabilities as they prepare to leave secondary schools and
96 access postsecondary institutions for training and subsequent
97 employment.

98 (n) Develop an incentive system that rewards secondary and
99 postsecondary schools that place young persons with disabilities
100 into competitive employment.

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

104 (4) The committee shall present a report of its findings
105 and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the
106 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by March
107 1, 2007. The committee is abolished on June 1, 2007.

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