

By Senator Atwater

25-1165-06

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to child abuse; amending ss. 39.001 and 39.201, F.S.; requiring all Department of Children and Family Services employees and persons in specified occupation categories assigned to report, manage, or supervise cases of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect to annually complete a continuing education course; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section 39.001, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.001 Purposes and intent; personnel standards and screening.--

(2) DEPARTMENT CONTRACTS.--The department may contract with the Federal Government, other state departments and agencies, county and municipal governments and agencies, public and private agencies, and private individuals and corporations in carrying out the purposes of, and the responsibilities established in, this chapter.

(e) The department shall develop and implement a written and performance-based testing and evaluation program to ensure measurable competencies of all employees assigned to report, manage, or supervise cases of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. All employees assigned to report, manage, or supervise cases of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect shall complete a 1-hour continuing education course on child abuse each year.

1 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
2 39.201, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

3 39.201 Mandatory reports of child abuse, abandonment,
4 or neglect; mandatory reports of death; central abuse
5 hotline.--

6 (1)

7 (b) Reporters in the following occupation categories
8 are required to provide their names to the hotline staff and
9 are required to complete a 1-hour continuing education course
10 on child abuse each year:

11 1. Physician, osteopathic physician, medical examiner,
12 chiropractic physician, nurse, or hospital personnel engaged
13 in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of persons;

14 2. Health or mental health professional other than one
15 listed in subparagraph 1.;

16 3. Practitioner who relies solely on spiritual means
17 for healing;

18 4. School teacher or other school official or
19 personnel;

20 5. Social worker, day care center worker, or other
21 professional child care, foster care, residential, or
22 institutional worker;

23 6. Law enforcement officer; or

24 7. Judge.

25
26 The names of reporters shall be entered into the record of the
27 report, but shall be held confidential and exempt as provided
28 in s. 39.202.

29 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.