

By the Committee on Children and Families; and Senator Atwater

586-2425-06

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to child abuse; requiring the
3 Office of Program Policy Analysis and
4 Government Accountability to evaluate
5 compliance with continuing education
6 requirements for professionals who are required
7 to provide their names when reporting child
8 abuse, neglect, or abandonment; providing for a
9 report to the Governor and the Legislature;
10 requiring the Department of Health to make
11 available a curriculum; providing an effective
12 date.

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

16 Section 1. The Office of Program Policy Analysis and
17 Government Accountability shall evaluate the continuing
18 education requirements related to identifying victims of child
19 abuse which apply to those individuals in the occupational
20 categories that are required to provide their names to child
21 abuse hotline staff when reporting known or suspected child
22 abuse, neglect, or abandonment. The evaluation must include,
23 but need not be limited to, an assessment of compliance by
24 profession or occupation, whether the training is statutorily
25 required or required as a condition for relicensure,
26 recertification, or continued employment, and the efficacy of
27 such training. The office shall submit a report to the
28 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
29 House of Representatives by December 31, 2006.

30 Section 2. Based on the findings of the Office of
31 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability which

1 are included in the report required under section 1 of this
2 act, the Division of Prevention and Intervention of Children's
3 Medical Services in the Department of Health shall make
4 available an appropriate child abuse education curriculum to
5 professional reporters pursuant to s. 39.201(1)(b), Florida
6 Statutes.

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

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9 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
11 Senate Bill 2360

12 The committee substitute removes the requirement that all
13 employees of the Department of Children and Family Services
14 (DCF) who are assigned to report, manage or supervise cases of
15 child abuse, abandonment, and neglect and all reporters of
16 child abuse in the occupation categories which are required to
17 provide their names when reporting child abuse complete a
18 1-hour continuing education course on child abuse each year.
19 It replaces these requirements with a direction to the Office
20 of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability
21 (OPPAGA) to evaluate the current education requirements
22 relating to child abuse for these professionals.

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24 The committee substitute also directs that, based on the
25 OPPAGA findings, the Division of Prevention and Intervention
26 of Children's Medical Services in the Department of Health
27 must make available an appropriate child abuse education
28 curriculum to the professionals required to give their names
29 when reporting child abuse.
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