

HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

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BILL: HB 7173, Engrossed 2 (CS/CS/CS/SB 1798)
INTRODUCER: Committee on Future of Florida's Families, Representative Galvano, and others
SUBJECT: Welfare of Children
PREPARED BY: Senate Committee on Children and Families
DATE: May 4, 2006

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

None

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

The House refused to concur in Senate amendment which deleted everything after the enacting clause on HB 7173 and inserted the body of CS/CS/CS/SB 1798.

Included in the language struck by the Senate amendment are provisions which:

- Create the Office of Child Abuse Prevention within the Executive Office of the Governor
- Establish a Child Abuse Prevention Advisory Council;
- Grant rulemaking authority for the Office of Child Abuse Prevention to the Executive Office of the Governor;
- Provide access to child abuse records for agencies that provide early intervention and prevention services;
- Add employees of public schools to the list of “other persons responsible for a child’s welfare” about whom the Department of Children and Family Services is required to receive and investigate reports of child abuse;
- Require the court to issue an order separate from other judicial review orders so that a caregiver can access educational, medical, or other services without revealing confidential details about the child to the service provider;
- Establish legislative intent for the statewide and local advocacy councils, provide guidelines for the selection of the executive director of the Florida Statewide Advocacy Council, and establish a process for investigating reports of abuse;
- Revise eligibility requirements for young adults to participate in the Road to Independence Program (these provisions were included in the Senate amendment to HB 7173;
- Revise the definition of the term “boarding school” to require such schools to meet requirements within a specified time frame;
- Revise s. 409.903, F.S., to expand eligibility for medical assistance payments to identified former foster children to age 20;
- Create s. 743.045, F.S., to remove the disability of nonage for specified foster children for the purpose of entering into leases for residential property;

- Amends s. 1009.25, F.S., to provide additional criteria for a student to qualify for an exemption from identified tuition and fees.

Beyond what the Senate has already funded, this bill specifically funds two additional provisions: \$243,557 for the Office of Child Abuse Prevention and \$236,376 for workload increase associated with the transfer to DCF of the responsibility to receive and investigate reports of child abuse by public school personnel.