

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to children's services; creating the
 3 Children and Youth Cabinet; providing a short title;
 4 providing legislative intent; providing organization,
 5 membership, and duties and responsibilities of the
 6 cabinet; providing for an advisory board; requiring the
 7 cabinet to prepare an annual report; providing an
 8 effective date.

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

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 12 Section 1. Children's cabinet; organization;
 13 responsibilities; annual report.--

14 (1) SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Children
 15 and Youth Cabinet Act."

16 (2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.--

17 (a) The Legislature finds that all state agencies and
 18 programs that touch the lives of children and youth must work in
 19 a coordinated and comprehensive fashion, with an emphasis on
 20 providing a continuum of services that benefit children from
 21 prenatal care through programs supporting successful transition
 22 to self-sufficient adulthood. The Legislature further finds that
 23 creating a Children and Youth Cabinet is the best method by
 24 which the state might achieve the visions and plans necessary to
 25 ensure that this state is the first place families think of when
 26 asked, "Where do you want to raise a child?"

27 (b) The Legislature, in collaboration with the Governor,
 28 intends to develop and implement a shared vision among the

29 branches of government in order to improve child and family
30 outcomes in this state. By working collaboratively, the
31 Legislature intends to invest in the education and skills of our
32 children and youth, develop a cohesive vision and plan that
33 ensures a long-term commitment to children and youth issues,
34 align public resources serving children and youth to support
35 their healthy growth and development, and promote increased
36 efficiency and improved service delivery by all governmental
37 agencies that provide services for children, youth, and their
38 families.

39 (3) ORGANIZATION.--There is created the Children and Youth
40 Cabinet.

41 (a) The cabinet shall ensure that the public policy of
42 this state relating to children and youth is developed to
43 promote interdepartmental collaboration and program
44 implementation in order that services designed for children and
45 youth are planned, managed, and delivered in a holistic and
46 integrated manner to improve the children's self-sufficiency,
47 safety, economic stability, health, and quality of life.

48 (b) The cabinet is created in the Executive Office of the
49 Governor, which shall provide administrative support and service
50 to the cabinet.

51 (c) The cabinet shall meet for its organizational session
52 no later than October 1, 2007. Thereafter, the cabinet shall
53 meet at least six times each year in different regions of the
54 state in order to solicit input from the public and any other
55 individual offering testimony relevant to the issues considered.
56 Each meeting must include a public-comment session.

57 (4) MEMBERS.--The cabinet shall consist of 15 members
 58 including the Governor and the following persons:

- 59 (a)1. The Secretary of Children and Family Services;
 60 2. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice;
 61 3. The director of the Agency for Persons with
 62 Disabilities;
 63 4. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation;
 64 5. The Secretary of Health;
 65 6. The Secretary of Health Care Administration;
 66 7. The Commissioner of Education;
 67 8. The director of the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office;
 68 9. The director of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention;

69 and

70 10. Five members representing children and youth advocacy
 71 organizations, who are not service providers and who are
 72 appointed by the Governor.

73 (b) The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House
 74 of Representatives, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the
 75 Attorney General, and the Chief Financial Officer, or their
 76 appointed designees, shall serve as ex officio members of the
 77 cabinet.

78 (c) The Governor or the Governor's designee shall serve as
 79 the chair of the cabinet.

80 (d) Nongovernmental members of the cabinet shall serve
 81 without compensation, but are entitled to receive per diem and
 82 travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061, Florida Statutes,
 83 while in performance of their duties.

84 (5) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.--The Children and Youth

85 Cabinet shall:

86 (a) Develop and implement a shared and cohesive vision
87 using integrated services to improve child, youth, and family
88 outcomes in this state.

89 (b) Develop, no later than December 31, 2007, a strategic
90 plan to achieve the goals of the shared and cohesive vision. The
91 plan shall be centered upon a long-term commitment to children
92 and youth issues and align all public resources to serve
93 children and youth and their families in a manner that supports
94 the healthy growth and development of children. The plan shall
95 prepare the children and youth to be responsible citizens and
96 productive members of the workforce. The plan shall include a
97 continuum of services that will benefit children from prenatal
98 care through services for youth in transition to adulthood.

99 (c) Develop and implement measurable outcomes for each
100 state department, agency, and program that are consistent with
101 the strategic plan. The cabinet shall establish a baseline
102 measurement for each outcome and regularly report on the
103 progress made toward achieving the desired outcome.

104 (d) Design and implement actions that will promote
105 collaboration, creativity, increased efficiency, information
106 sharing, and improved service delivery between and within state
107 governmental organizations that provide services for children
108 and youth and their families. In particular, the efforts shall
109 include the long-range planning process mandated by s. 216.013,
110 Florida Statutes.

111 (e) Foster public awareness of children and youth issues
112 and develop new partners in the effort to serve children and

113 youth.

114 (f) Create a children and youth impact statement for
115 evaluating proposed legislation, requested appropriations, and
116 programs. The impact statement shall be shared with the
117 Legislature in their deliberative process.

118 (g) Identify existing and potential funding streams and
119 resources for children's services, including, but not limited
120 to, public funding, foundation and organization grants, and
121 other forms of private funding opportunities, including public-
122 private partnerships.

123 (h) Develop a children-and-youth-based budget through a
124 children and youth estimating conference that has a structure
125 and nomenclature that includes all relevant departments, funding
126 streams, and programs. The budget shall facilitate improved
127 coordination and efficiency, explore options for and allow
128 maximization of federal financial participation, and implement
129 the state's vision and strategic plan.

130 (i) Engage in other activities that will implement
131 improved collaboration of agencies in order to create, manage,
132 and promote coordinated policies, programs, and service-delivery
133 systems that support children and youth.

134 (6) ADVISORY BOARD.--The Governor may appoint an advisory
135 board to assist the cabinet in its tasks. The board shall
136 include persons who can provide to the cabinet the best
137 available technical and professional research and assistance. If
138 an advisory board is created, it shall include representatives
139 of children and youth advocacy organizations and youth, wherever
140 practicable, who have been recipients of services and programs

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141 operated or funded by state agencies.

142 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.--The Children and Youth Cabinet shall,
143 by February 1 of each year, provide an annual report to the
144 Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House
145 of Representatives, and the public concerning its activities and
146 progress towards making this state the first place families
147 think of when asked, "Where do they want to raise their
148 children?"

149 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.