

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, which is a coordinating council as defined in s. 20.03,
41 Florida Statutes.

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

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

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

57 Each meeting must include a public-comment session.
 58 (4) MEMBERS.--The cabinet shall consist of 15 members
 59 including the Governor and the following persons:
 60 (a)1. The Secretary of Children and Family Services;
 61 2. The Secretary of Juvenile Justice;
 62 3. The director of the Agency for Persons with
 63 Disabilities;
 64 4. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation;
 65 5. The Secretary of Health;
 66 6. The Secretary of Health Care Administration;
 67 7. The Commissioner of Education;
 68 8. The director of the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office;
 69 9. The director of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention;
 70 and
 71 10. Five members representing children and youth advocacy
 72 organizations, who are not service providers and who are
 73 appointed by the Governor.
 74 (b) The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House
 75 of Representatives, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the
 76 Attorney General, and the Chief Financial Officer, or their
 77 appointed designees, shall serve as ex officio members of the
 78 cabinet.
 79 (c) The Governor or the Governor's designee shall serve as
 80 the chair of the cabinet.
 81 (d) Nongovernmental members of the cabinet shall serve
 82 without compensation, but are entitled to receive per diem and
 83 travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061, Florida Statutes,
 84 while in performance of their duties.

85 (5) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.--The Children and Youth
86 Cabinet shall:

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

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

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

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

112 (e) Foster public awareness of children and youth issues

113 and develop new partners in the effort to serve children and
114 youth.

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

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

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

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

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

141 practicable, who have been recipients of services and programs
142 operated or funded by state agencies.

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

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