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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/26/2010	.	
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The Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means (Peaden) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Between lines 109 and 110  
insert:

Section 3. Subsection (25) is added to section 39.301,  
Florida Statutes, to read:

39.301 Initiation of protective investigations.-

(25) The department may develop and operate a pilot program relating to family needs assistance referrals. The pilot program shall be located in a circuit in which the child protective investigation unit, whether located in the department or the county sheriff's office, and the community-based care lead



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13 agency agree to participate in the pilot program. The pilot  
14 program shall be funded from existing resources in the circuit.

15 (a) Upon receiving a call that does not meet the criteria  
16 for being a report of abuse or child abuse, abandonment, or  
17 neglect, but does indicate that the family needs assistance, the  
18 central abuse hotline shall accept these calls for a family  
19 needs assistance referral and immediately transfer the referral  
20 to the county wherein the family currently resides.

21 (b) The department shall review the referral in the county  
22 of residence and a joint response shall be coordinated with the  
23 community-based care lead agency within 48 hours after being  
24 received from the central abuse hotline to determine the  
25 appropriate response, which must include at least one of the  
26 following, as appropriate:

27 1. If after the initial home visit and assessment conducted  
28 by the child protective investigator, conditions in the home  
29 meet criteria for a report of abuse, abandonment, or neglect,  
30 the department shall initiate a child protective response.

31 2. If the department makes a determination that the family  
32 would benefit from a family needs assistance referral and a  
33 child protective response is not indicated, services must be  
34 offered.

35 (c) The participation in the family needs assistance  
36 referral pilot program is voluntary. The community-based care  
37 lead agency shall determine the referral needs and shall conduct  
38 the ongoing linkage of services to the families based on the  
39 availability of resources at the time of the initial visit or  
40 within 2 business days after the initial visit with the  
41 department.



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42           (d) The duration and intensity of such intervention shall  
43 be determined by the family and the community-based care lead  
44 agency and must be based on the availability of funds and  
45 community resources.

46           (e) The department and each community-based care lead  
47 agency must maintain up-to-date documentation of all family  
48 needs assistance referrals. The documentation must include, at a  
49 minimum:

50           1. The number of referrals received;

51           2. The type of response to each referral;

52           3. An indication of whether or not the family accepted  
53 services;

54           4. If the services were accepted by the family, the type of  
55 services delivered;

56           5. If the services were available through the Florida Safe  
57 Families Network, the cost of the services;

58           6. The outcome of services accepted or delivered;

59           7. Whether or not families who are the subject of the  
60 referral return to the attention of the department as a  
61 subsequent family needs assistance referral, or as the subject  
62 of a report accepted for a child protective investigation; and

63           8. Any additional information that enables a determination  
64 of the success of the family needs assistance referral pilot  
65 program.

66           (e) The department shall submit a report to the Legislature  
67 by January 31, 2011, which contains the results of the family  
68 needs assistance pilot program and recommendations for  
69 continuing, expanding, or modifying the program.

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71 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

72 And the title is amended as follows:

73       Delete line 15

74 and insert:

75       year; amending s. 39.301, F.S.; creating a family  
76       needs assistance referral pilot program; providing  
77       that the program be funded by existing resources;  
78       requiring that the department and each community-based  
79       care lead agency maintain up-to-date documentation;  
80       requiring that such documentation contain specified  
81       information; requiring that the department submit a  
82       report to the Legislature by a specified date;  
83       repealing s. 394.655, F.S., relating to the