

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 411 Children's Initiatives
SPONSOR(S): Healthy Families Subcommittee; Fullwood
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1322

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Healthy Families Subcommittee	12 Y, 0 N, As CS	Entress	Schoolfield
2) Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N	Fontaine	Pridgeon
3) Health & Human Services Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Florida children's initiatives, previously called Florida Children's Zones, "assist disadvantaged areas within the state in creating a community-based service network that develops, coordinates, and provides quality education, accessible health care, youth development programs, opportunities for employment, and safe and affordable housing for children and families living within its boundaries." There are currently three Florida children's initiatives, the Miami Children's Initiative, Inc., the New Town Success Zone, and Parramore Kidz Zone. The Miami Children's Initiative, Inc. is the only Florida children's initiative codified in statute.

The bill codifies in statute two existing Florida children's initiatives, one in Jacksonville ("New Town Success Zone") and one in Orlando ("Parramore Kidz Zone"). The bill states that the initiatives are designed to encompass an area large enough to include all necessary components of community life, but small enough to reach every member of each neighborhood who is willing to participate.

The bill clarifies that the evaluation, fiscal management, and oversight by the not-for-profit corporation applies only to the Miami Children's Initiative, Inc.

The bill specifies that the initiatives are subject to Florida public records laws, Florida public meeting laws, and Florida procurement laws.

The bill has no fiscal impact.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2013.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation:

History of Children's Initiatives

In 2008, HB 3 was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor (Chapter 2008-96, Laws of Florida), creating s. 409.147, F.S., which established children's zones, currently referred to as children's initiatives.¹ Florida children's initiatives "assist disadvantaged areas within the state in creating a community-based service network that develops, coordinates, and provides quality education, accessible health care, youth development programs, opportunities for employment, and safe and affordable housing for children and families living within its boundaries."² A county or municipality (or a designated area) may apply to the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, Inc. (Ounce) to designate an area as a children's initiative. The area must first adopt a resolution stating that the area has issues related to poverty, that changes are necessary for the area to improve, and that resources are necessary for revitalization of the area.³ The county or municipality must then establish a children's initiative planning team and develop and adapt a strategic community plan.⁴ Once a county or municipality has completed these steps, they must create a not-for-profit corporation to facilitate fundraising and secure broad community ownership of the children's initiative.⁵

HB 3 also created the Magic City Children's Zone, Inc., currently referred to as Miami Children's Initiative, Inc. as a 10-year pilot project zone.⁶ Proviso language attached to Line 345A in the 2008-2009 General Appropriations Act provided \$3.6 million in non-recurring general revenue funds for the Miami Children's Initiative, Inc.⁷ The Ounce was designated in proviso as the agent to oversee the pilot program and directed the funds to be used as a grant over a three-year period to carry out activities in the zones.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) developed a three-year non-renewable contract with the Ounce (LJ829) and in August of 2008 began paying \$300,000 per month.⁸ In 2009, HB 381 (Chapter 2009-43, Laws of Florida), s. 409.147(8)(a), F.S. was amended, changing the 10-year pilot zone to a 10-year project and changed the name of the Magic City Children's Zone to the Miami's Children's Initiative.⁹

The Ounce of Florida

The Ounce is a private, nonprofit corporation dedicated to shaping prevention policy and investing in innovative prevention programs that provide measurable benefits to Florida's children, families and communities.¹⁰ As required in statute, DCF must contract with a nonprofit corporation to develop a business plan and for the evaluation, fiscal management, and oversight of the Miami Children's Initiative, Inc.¹¹ While the statute does not specify that these responsibilities are reserved for the Ounce, proviso language from the 2008 General Appropriations Act specified that the Ounce would be the nonprofit organization responsible for this.¹² This contract expired in 2011 and there is no current

¹ DCF Analysis of HB 411 dated January 31, 2013. On file with Healthy Families Subcommittee staff.

² S. 409.147(1)(b), F.S.

³ S. 409.147(4)(a), F.S.

⁴ S. 409.147(5), 409.147(6), F.S.

⁵ S. 409.147(7), F.S.

⁶ DCF Analysis of HB 411 dated January 31, 2013. On file with Healthy Families Subcommittee staff.

⁷ S. 3, General Appropriations Act of 2008, 2008-152 L.O.F.

⁸ DCF Analysis of HB 411 dated January 31, 2013. On file with Healthy Families Subcommittee staff.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, accessible at: <http://www.ounce.org/>.

¹¹ S. 409.147(9), F.S.

¹² S. 3, General Appropriations Act of 2008, 2008-152 L.O.F.

contract for these responsibilities.¹³ The Ounce is the only organization that designates areas as Florida children's initiatives.¹⁴

New Town Success Zone

After review of a number of Jacksonville neighborhoods, the New Town community was selected by community leadership of Jacksonville in 2008 as the site for a Florida children's initiative.¹⁵ In 2009, a strategic plan was developed and work began on the New Town Success Zone.¹⁶ The initiative aims to assist parents and caregivers, business leaders, professionals, residents, teachers and other stakeholders create a safe environment and pipeline to success for children residing in the New Town area of Jacksonville.¹⁷ The New Town Success Zone has reported higher FCAT scores, an improvement in school promotion rates, and a reduction in violent crimes, theft and truancy since 2008.¹⁸

Parramore Kidz Zone

Community leadership in Orlando launched a community project designed to invest in those things that make a difference in children's lives, such as quality early childhood education, after school programs, programs that build family economic success, youth development programs for teenagers, access to health care, and mentoring within the Parramore area of Orlando.¹⁹ The Parramore Kidz Zone began in 2006, and was designated a Florida children's initiative in 2009.²⁰ The goals of the Parramore Kidz Zone are to "reduce juvenile crime, teen pregnancy, and high school drop-out rates in Orlando's highest poverty, highest crime neighborhood."²¹ The Parramore Kidz Zone offers a variety of community services, including tutoring, childcare, and health and wellness programs.²² Since 2006, the Parramore neighborhood has seen increased test scores and decreased juvenile arrest rates.²³

Both the New Town and Parramore projects are currently operating and have been designated by the Ounce as a Florida children's initiative.²⁴

Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill codifies in statute two Florida children's initiatives, one in Jacksonville and one in Orlando. The Jacksonville initiative is in Council District 9 of Duval County, and is called the "New Town Success Zone." The initiative in Orlando, Orange County, is called the "Parramore Kidz Zone." Both the New Town Success Zone and Parramore Kidz Zone are already in existence in their respective communities.

The bill requires a 10-year project in each city, which must be managed by a not-for-profit corporation, in accordance with chapter 617, F.S. Both initiatives are designed to encompass an area that is large enough to include all of the necessary components of community life, including, but not limited to, schools, places of worship, recreational facilities, commercial areas, and common space, yet small enough to allow programs and services to reach every member of the neighborhood who is willing to participate in the project. The bill explains that the legislature determines that public policy dictates that the corporation must operate in the most open and accessible manner consistent with public purpose, and requires the corporation to be subject to chapter 119, relating to public records, chapter 286,

¹³ Phone conversation with DCF staff. February 25, 2013.

¹⁴ S. 409.147(4), F.S.

¹⁵ "Why New Town Success Zone", The New Town Success Zone website, accessible at: <http://www.newtownsuccesszone.com/why.html>.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ New Town Success Zone Five Year Report to the Community, The New Town Success Zone, accessible at <http://www.newtownsuccesszone.com/5year.html>.

¹⁹ DCF Analysis of HB 411 dated January 31, 2013. On file with Healthy Families Subcommittee staff.

²⁰ The Parramore Kidz Zone, The Ounce of Florida, accessible at: http://www.ounce.org/Orlando_CI.html.

²¹ The Parramore Kidz Zone, The City of Orlando, accessible at: <http://www.cityoforlando.net/fpr/Html/Children/aboutpkz.htm>.

²² *Id.*

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ DCF Analysis of HB 411 dated January 31, 2013. On file with Healthy Families Subcommittee staff.

relating to public meetings and records, and chapter 287, relating to procurement of commodities or contractual services. These requirements are consistent with existing law for the Florida children's initiative which is already codified, the Miami Children's Initiative.

Upon designation as a Florida children's initiative, the bill requires the Miami Children's Initiative, Inc., the New Town Success Zone, and the Parramore Kidz Zone to assist the state in creating a community-based service network and creating programming that develops, coordinates, and provides quality education, accessible health care, youth development programs, opportunities for employment, and safe and affordable housing for children and families living within their boundaries. The network and programming must be consistent with the legislative intent and purpose of s. 16, chapter 2009-43, Laws of Florida, which is s. 409.147, F.S., the current statute governing Florida children's initiatives.

The bill clarifies that the evaluation, fiscal management, and oversight by the not-for-profit corporation applies only to the Miami Children's Initiative, Inc. The Ounce was the not-for-profit responsible for these responsibilities for the Miami Children's Initiative, Inc., but the contract expired in 2011. There is currently no contract for these responsibilities.

The bill clarifies that the "New Town Success Zone" and the "Parramore Kidz Zone" are not subject to control, supervision, or direction by any department of the state in any manner.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends s. 409.147, F.S., relating to children's initiatives.

Section 2: Provides for an effective date.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not Applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On March 13, 2013, the Healthy Families Subcommittee adopted a strike-all amendment for House Bill 411. The strike-all amendment made the following changes to the bill:

- Eliminates the duplicative language that the “New Town Success Zone” adopt a resolution, establish a planning team, and develop and adopt the strategic community plan before incorporating the non-profit entity. This is required in s. 409.147(7), and the requirement remains unchanged by the amendment.
- Clarified that neither the “New Town Success Zone” and the “Parramore Kidz Zone” are not subject to control, supervision, or direction by any department of the state in any manner.
- Eliminated the requirement that the “New Town Success Zone” be administratively housed in the Department of Children and Families.
- Eliminated the requirement that the not-for-profit corporation responsible for fiscal management and oversight of the Miami Children’s Initiative, Inc. also complete these responsibilities for the “Parramore Kidz Zone” and the “New Town Success Zone.”
- Removed the provision requiring a legislative appropriation for implementation of the bill