

HB 7103

2013

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to cross-over youth; creating a pilot
 3 project to serve youth in common to the Department of
 4 Children and Families and the Department of Juvenile
 5 Justice; providing for selection of a county for the
 6 project; requiring proposals from interested
 7 providers; specifying elements to be included in the
 8 project; requiring reports to the Governor and
 9 Legislature; providing an effective date.

10
 11 WHEREAS, hundreds of youth each month in Florida are served
 12 in both the child welfare system and juvenile justice system,
 13 and

14 WHEREAS, a significant number of these children who reside
 15 in residential group homes have felony arrest records, and

16 WHEREAS, these youth tend to have a greater need for
 17 specialized services and can have a negative effect on other
 18 youth in the same group residential settings, and

19 WHEREAS, the state needs to assess the impact of these
 20 youth on the child welfare and juvenile justice systems and to
 21 develop better integrated systems of care and improved services
 22 to respond to the needs of these youth, NOW, THEREFORE,

23
 24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

25
 26 Section 1. Cross-Over Youth pilot project.-The Cross-Over
 27 Youth pilot project is established as a collaborative initiative
 28 of the Department of Children and Families and the Department of

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29 Juvenile Justice. The project will demonstrate a more effective
30 service model for cross-over youth, efficient coordination of
31 services between agencies, and the evidence of improved outcomes
32 for youth residing in the pilot project facility. "Cross-over
33 youth" are youth under the age of 18 who receive services from
34 the Department of Children and Families and the Department of
35 Juvenile Justice.

36 (1) The pilot project shall be in one county with a high
37 rate of cross-over youth that is mutually agreed upon by the
38 Secretary of Children and Families and the Secretary of Juvenile
39 Justice. Counties that have a unified family court shall be
40 given preference.

41 (2) The Secretary of Children and Families shall seek
42 proposals from interested child welfare service providers to
43 elicit innovative approaches for the pilot project. The
44 Secretary of Children and Families, in consultation with the
45 Secretary of Juvenile Justice, shall select one or more
46 residential homes from the pilot county to participate in the
47 project.

48 (3) The pilot project shall include, but not be limited
49 to, the following:

50 (a) Training provided by the Department of Juvenile
51 Justice to pilot home staff.

52 (b) Intervention services by the Department of Juvenile
53 Justice to youth on probation who reside in pilot homes.

54 (c) Enhanced security measures at pilot homes.

55 (d) Unified treatment plans for cross-over youth served by
56 multiple state and local agencies.

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57 (e) Interventions to ensure that youth at low risk of
58 reoffending are not negatively affected by high-risk cross-over
59 youth.

60 (f) The pilot project shall begin no later than July 1,
61 2013, and shall end June 30, 2014.

62 (g) The Department of Children and Families and the
63 Department of Juvenile Justice shall jointly prepare an interim
64 report and final report on findings and recommendations relating
65 to the pilot project. The reports shall include performance
66 measure data, including, but not limited to, the:

67 1. Number of youth served by the pilot project, including
68 demographic information, prior offense history, and relative
69 risk to reoffend at time of placement as determined by the
70 Department of Juvenile Justice.

71 2. Number of youth who receive a charge for a new
72 violation of law while under supervision of the pilot project.

73 3. Number of youth who receive a violation of probation
74 while under supervision of the pilot project.

75 4. Reduction in risk factors.

76 5. Increase in protective factors.

77 6. Number of youth who transfer out of the pilot home for
78 behavioral reasons.

79 7. Number of calls to law enforcement as a result of
80 incidents involving youth in the pilot home.

81 8. Academic performance of youth in the pilot home.

82

83 The interim report is due December 31, 2013, and the final
84 report is due August 31, 2014. The Department of Children and

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85 | Families and the Department of Juvenile Justice shall submit the
86 | reports to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of
87 | Representatives, and the President of the Senate.

88 | Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.