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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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05/01/2014 02:49 PM

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Senator Sobel moved the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Between lines 555 and 556

insert:

Section 10. Section 409.997, Florida Statutes, is created  
to read:

409.997 Child welfare results-oriented accountability  
program.—

(1) The department and its contract providers, including  
lead agencies, community-based care providers, and other  
community partners participating in the state's child protection



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12 and child welfare system, share the responsibility for achieving  
13 the outcome goals specified in s. 409.986(2).

14 (2) The department shall contract with a qualified  
15 consultant or organization with expertise in child welfare by  
16 August 31, 2014, to prepare a plan for development and  
17 implementation of a comprehensive, results-oriented  
18 accountability program consistent with this section. The plan,  
19 which must be submitted to the Governor, the President of the  
20 Senate, and the Speaker of the House by February 1, 2015, shall:

- 21 (a) Identify essential data sets;  
22 (b) Assess the availability and validity of essential data;  
23 (c) Propose options for aggregating the available data;  
24 (d) Specify valid and reliable measures for each outcome  
25 goal;  
26 (e) Describe specific steps and analytical procedures  
27 necessary for the computation of the outcome measures;  
28 (f) Propose formats, presentations, and other methods of  
29 disseminating the accountability information;  
30 (g) Describe specific activities and procedures for  
31 integrating the accountability information into the quality  
32 assurance and performance monitoring activities of the  
33 department and its child welfare partner organizations;  
34 (h) Propose a timeline and work plan for implementation of  
35 the accountability program and provide an estimate of associated  
36 costs; and  
37 (i) Identify any other significant considerations that may  
38 have a material effect on the implementation of the  
39 accountability program required by this section.  
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41 This subsection expires June 30, 2015.

42 (3) The purpose of the results-oriented accountability  
43 program is to monitor and measure the use of resources, the  
44 quality and amount of services provided, and child and family  
45 outcomes. The program includes data analysis, research review,  
46 and evaluation. The program shall produce an assessment of  
47 individual entities' performance, as well as the performance of  
48 groups of entities working together on a local, regional, and  
49 statewide basis to provide an integrated system of care. Data  
50 analyzed and communicated through the accountability program  
51 shall inform the department's development and maintenance of an  
52 inclusive, interactive, and evidence-supported program of  
53 quality improvement which promotes individual skill building as  
54 well as organizational learning. Additionally, outcome data  
55 generated by the program may be used as the basis for payment of  
56 performance incentives if funds for such payments are made  
57 available through the General Appropriations Act. The  
58 information compiled and utilized in the accountability program  
59 must incorporate, at a minimum:

60 (a) Valid and reliable outcome measures for each of the  
61 goals specified in this subsection. The outcome data set must  
62 consist of a limited number of understandable measures using  
63 available data to quantify outcomes as children move through the  
64 system of care. Such measures may aggregate multiple variables  
65 that affect the overall achievement of the outcome goals. Valid  
66 and reliable measures must be based on adequate sample sizes, be  
67 gathered over suitable time periods, and reflect authentic  
68 rather than spurious results, and may not be susceptible to  
69 manipulation.



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70       (b) Regular and periodic monitoring activities that track  
71 the identified outcome measures on a statewide, regional, and  
72 provider-specific basis. Monitoring reports must identify trends  
73 and chart progress toward achievement of the goals specified in  
74 this subsection. The accountability program may not rank or  
75 compare performance among community-based care regions unless  
76 adequate and specific adjustments are adopted which account for  
77 the diversity in regions' demographics, resources, and other  
78 relevant characteristics. The requirements of the monitoring  
79 program may be incorporated into the department's quality  
80 assurance program.

81       (c) An analytical framework that builds on the results of  
82 the outcomes monitoring procedures and assesses the statistical  
83 validity of observed associations between child welfare  
84 interventions and the measured outcomes. The analysis must use  
85 quantitative methods to adjust for variations in demographic or  
86 other conditions. The analysis must include longitudinal studies  
87 to evaluate longer term outcomes, such as continued safety,  
88 family permanence, and transition to self-sufficiency. The  
89 analysis may also include qualitative research methods to  
90 provide insight into statistical patterns.

91       (d) A program of research review to identify interventions  
92 that are supported by evidence as causally linked to improved  
93 outcomes.

94       (e) An ongoing process of evaluation to determine the  
95 efficacy and effectiveness of various interventions. Efficacy  
96 evaluation is intended to determine the validity of a causal  
97 relationship between an intervention and an outcome.  
98 Effectiveness evaluation is intended to determine the extent to



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99 which the results can be generalized.

100 (f) Procedures for making the results of the accountability  
101 program transparent for all parties involved in the child  
102 welfare system as well as policymakers and the public, which  
103 shall be updated at least quarterly and published on the  
104 department's website in a manner that allows custom searches of  
105 the performance data. The presentation of the data shall provide  
106 a comprehensible, visual report card for the state and each  
107 community-based care region, indicating the current status of  
108 the outcomes relative to each goal and trends in that status  
109 over time. The presentation shall identify and report outcome  
110 measures that assess the performance of the department, the  
111 community-based care lead agencies, and their subcontractors  
112 working together to provide an integrated system of care.

113 (g) An annual performance report that is provided to  
114 interested parties including the dependency judge or judges in  
115 the community-based care service area. The report shall be  
116 submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
117 Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 1 of each  
118 year.

119 (4) Subject to a specific appropriation to implement the  
120 accountability program developed under subsection (2), the  
121 department shall establish a technical advisory panel consisting  
122 of representatives from the Florida Institute for Child Welfare  
123 established pursuant to s. 1004.615, lead agencies, community-  
124 based care providers, other contract providers, community  
125 alliances, and family representatives. The President of the  
126 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall  
127 each appoint a member to serve as a legislative liaison to the



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128 panel. The technical advisory panel shall advise the department  
129 on the implementation of the results-oriented accountability  
130 program.

131 Section 11. In the event that SB 1666 or similar  
132 legislation is passed during the 2014 Legislative Session and  
133 becomes law, and such legislation creates s. 409.997, Florida  
134 Statutes, the provisions of this act which create s. 409.997,  
135 Florida Statutes, shall supersede the provisions of SB 1666. For  
136 the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the recurring sum of \$4.8 million is  
137 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to implement s.  
138 39.5085(2)(a)3., Florida Statutes, as part of the Relative  
139 Caregiver Program as provided in SB 1666, if such legislation or  
140 similar legislation is passed during the 2014 Legislative  
141 Session and becomes law. For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the  
142 recurring sum of \$400,000 is appropriated from the General  
143 Revenue Fund for travel, per diem, and other expenses for the  
144 critical incident rapid response teams created pursuant to s.  
145 39.2015, Florida Statutes, as provided in SB 1666, if such  
146 legislation or similar legislation is passed during the 2014  
147 Legislative Session and becomes law. Two full-time equivalent  
148 positions, associated salary rate of 171,500, along with the  
149 recurring sum of \$257,670 and nonrecurring sum of \$7,330 are  
150 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to establish the  
151 assistant secretary and administrative support positions as  
152 provided in SB 1666, if such legislation or similar legislation  
153 is passed during the 2014 Legislative Session and becomes law.  
154 There is also appropriated the nonrecurring sums from the  
155 General Revenue Fund of \$500,000 for the Student Loan  
156 Forgiveness Program as provided in SB 1666, if such legislation



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157 or similar legislation is passed during the 2014 Legislative  
158 Session and becomes law, and \$300,000 to contract for child  
159 welfare results-oriented accountability system outcomes as  
160 provided in this act.

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

163 And the title is amended as follows:

164       Between lines 51 and 52

165 insert:

166       creating s. 409.997, F.S.; requiring the department to  
167       contract with a specified entity to prepare a plan for  
168       the development and implementation of a comprehensive,  
169       results-oriented accountability program; requiring the  
170       plan to be submitted to the Governor and the  
171       Legislature by a specified date; providing  
172       requirements for the plan and the program; requiring  
173       the department to establish a technical advisory panel  
174       consisting of specified representatives; providing  
175       appropriations and authorizing positions;