

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 55 Children and Youth Cabinet

SPONSOR(S): Education Committee and Harrell

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 878

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Choice & Innovation Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N	Flynn	Healy
2) Health & Human Services Committee	18 Y, 0 N	Nilson	Calamas
3) Education Committee	16 Y, 0 N	Flynn	Mizereck

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Florida Children and Youth Cabinet (Cabinet) consists of the Governor and 14 other members. These other members include the Secretary of the Department of Children and Families, the Secretary of Juvenile Justice, the director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the director of the Office of Early Learning, the State Surgeon General, the Secretary of Health Care Administration, the Commissioner of Education, the director of the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office, the director of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention, and five members appointed by the Governor who represent children and youth advocacy organizations.

The bill expands the total membership of the cabinet to 16 by adding a superintendent of schools who is appointed by the Governor. The bill changes the title of the ninth member of the cabinet from "the Director of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention" to "the Director of the Office of Adoption and Child Protection."

The bill does not have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2015.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

The Florida Children and Youth Cabinet (Cabinet) was created in 2007.¹ The Florida Legislature recognized the need to collaborate with the Governor to improve child and family outcomes in the state.² Among other things, the Cabinet was created to enable state agencies and programs that serve children to coordinate policy development and program implementation so services provided to children and youth are planned, managed, and delivered in a holistic and integrated manner.³

The Cabinet is comprised of the Governor and 14 other members. These other members include the Secretary of Children and Family Services, the Secretary of Juvenile Justice, the director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the director of the Office of Early Learning, the State Surgeon General, the Secretary of Health Care Administration, the Commissioner of Education, the director of the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office, the director of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention, and five members representing children and youth advocacy organizations, who are not service providers and who are appointed by the Governor.⁴

During the 2007 legislative session the Office of Child Abuse Prevention was renamed the Office of Adoption and Child Protection. The name was changed to reflect the establishment of a comprehensive statewide approach for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and prevention of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect.⁵

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill expands the membership of the Cabinet to include the Governor and 15 other members. The additional Cabinet position created by the bill will be a superintendent of schools who is appointed to the Cabinet by the Governor.

Current law states that the “Cabinet shall consist of 14 members including the Governor and the following persons” However, the law lists 14 specific members of the Cabinet in addition to the Governor, bringing the total membership of the Cabinet to 15 members. The bill changes the total membership figure to 16 members, thereby accounting for the member added by the bill and the Governor.

The bill changes the title of the ninth member of the cabinet from “the Director of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention” to “the Director of the Office of Adoption and Child Protection” to conform to current law.⁶

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Amends s. 402.56, F.S., relating to the Children and Youth Cabinet.

Section 2: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

¹ Section 1, Ch. 2007-151, L.O.F.

² Section 402.56(2)(b), F.S.

³ Section 402.56(3)(a), F.S.

⁴ Section 402.56(4), F.S.

⁵ Section 1, Ch. 2007-124, L.O.F.

⁶ Section 39.001(9), F.S.

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 19, 2015, the Education Committee adopted one amendment to the bill and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment changes the title of the ninth member of the cabinet from “the Director of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention” to “the Director of the Office of Adoption and Child Protection.” The Office of Child Abuse Prevention was renamed the Office of Adoption and Child Protection in 2007.⁷ This bill analysis reflects the committee substitute adopted by the Education Committee.

⁷ Section 1. Ch. 2007-124, L.O.F.