



126346

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
04/26/2017	.	
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The Committee on Appropriations (Garcia) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete lines 1773 - 1829
and insert:

Section 27. Effective January 1, 2018, section 409.16741, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

409.16741 Substance-exposed newborns; legislative findings and intent; screening and assessment; case management; training.-

(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.-



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11 (a) The Legislature finds that children, their families,
12 and child welfare agencies have been affected by multiple
13 substance abuse epidemics over the past several decades, and
14 parental substance abuse is again becoming a growing reason for
15 removing children from their homes and placing them in foster
16 care.

17 (b) The Legislature also finds that infants are the largest
18 age group of children entering foster care and that parental
19 substance abuse disorders are having a major impact not only on
20 increasing child removals, but also on preventing or delaying
21 reunification of families and increasing termination of parental
22 rights.

23 (c) The Legislature further finds that two aspects of
24 parental substance abuse affect the child welfare system:
25 prenatal exposure when it is determined that there are immediate
26 safety factors that necessitate the newborn being placed in
27 protective custody; and postnatal use that affects the ability
28 of the parent to safely care for the child.

29 (d) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that the
30 department establish and monitor a coordinated approach to
31 working with children and their families affected by substance
32 abuse and dependence.

33 (2) SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT.—The department shall develop
34 or adopt one or more initial screening and assessment
35 instruments to identify, determine the needs of, and plan
36 services for substance-exposed newborns and their families. In
37 addition to the conditions of the infant, conditions or
38 behaviors of the mother or father which may indicate a risk of
39 harm to the child shall be considered during any assessment.



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40 (3) CASE MANAGEMENT.—

41 (a) The department shall conduct regular multidisciplinary
42 staffings relating to services provided for substance-exposed
43 newborns and their families to ensure that all parties possess
44 relevant information and that services are coordinated across
45 systems identified in this chapter. The department or community-
46 based care lead agency, as appropriate, shall coordinate these
47 staffings and include individuals involved in the child's care.

48 (b) Each region of the department and each community-based
49 care lead agency shall jointly assess local service capacity to
50 meet the specialized service needs of substance-exposed newborns
51 and their families and establish a plan to develop the necessary
52 capacity. Each plan shall be developed in consultation with
53 entities and agencies involved in the individuals' care.

54 (4) TRAINING.—The department and community-based care lead
55 agencies shall ensure that cases in which there is a substance-
56 exposed newborn are assigned to child protective investigators
57 and case managers who have specialized training in working with
58 substance-exposed newborns and their families. The department
59 and lead agencies shall ensure that child protective
60 investigators and case managers receive this training before
61 accepting a case when possible. If a child protective
62 investigator or case manager with specialized training is not
63 available, the investigator or case manager shall consult with
64 department staff or the case management organization staff with
65 such expertise.

66
67 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

68 And the title is amended as follows:



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69 Delete line 136
70 and insert:
71 cases when possible; providing for consultation;
72 creating s. 409.16742, F.S.; providing