

By Senator Gainer

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to sheriffs providing child protective
3 investigative services; amending s. 39.3065, F.S.;
4 requiring the Walton County Sheriff to have the
5 responsibility to provide all child protective
6 investigations in Walton County beginning with a
7 specified fiscal year; authorizing the Department of
8 Children and Families to enter into a performance
9 agreement with the Walton County Sheriff to perform
10 child protective investigations in Walton County;
11 requiring the state to disburse funds for providing
12 child protective investigations in Walton County
13 directly to the Walton County Sheriff; prohibiting
14 such funds from being required to go through the
15 Department of Children and Families; requiring the
16 Walton County Sheriff to establish specific accounts
17 to track child protective investigation budgets and
18 expenditures in compliance with certain standards;
19 conforming a provision to changes made by the act;
20 providing an effective date.

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22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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24 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 39.3065, Florida
25 Statutes, is amended to read:

26 39.3065 Sheriffs of certain counties to provide child
27 protective investigative services; procedures; funding.—

28 (3) (a) Beginning in fiscal year 1999-2000, the sheriffs of
29 Pasco County, Manatee County, Broward County, and Pinellas

2-01084-17

20171092__

30 County have the responsibility to provide all child protective
31 investigations in their respective counties. Beginning with the
32 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Walton County Sheriff has the
33 responsibility to provide all child protective investigations in
34 Walton County. Beginning in fiscal year 2000-2001, the
35 Department of Children and Families is authorized to enter into
36 grant agreements with sheriffs of other counties to perform
37 child protective investigations in their respective counties.
38 Beginning with the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Department of
39 Children and Families is authorized to enter into a performance
40 agreement with the Walton County Sheriff to perform child
41 protective investigations in Walton County.

42 (b) The sheriffs shall operate, at a minimum, in accordance
43 with the performance standards and outcome measures established
44 by the Legislature for protective investigations conducted by
45 the Department of Children and Families. Each individual who
46 provides these services must complete, at a minimum, the
47 training provided to and required of protective investigators
48 employed by the Department of Children and Families.

49 (c) Funds for providing child protective investigations
50 must be identified in the annual appropriation made to the
51 Department of Children and Families, which shall award grants
52 for the full amount identified to the respective sheriffs'
53 offices. Notwithstanding the provisions of ss. 216.181(16)(b)
54 and 216.351, the Department of Children and Families may advance
55 payments to the sheriffs for child protective investigations.
56 Funds for the child protective investigations may not be
57 integrated into the sheriffs' regular budgets. Budgetary data
58 and other data relating to the performance of child protective

2-01084-17

20171092__

59 investigations must be maintained separately from all other
60 records of the sheriffs' offices and reported to the Department
61 of Children and Families as specified in the grant agreement.

62 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c), the state shall disburse
63 funds for providing child protective investigations in Walton
64 County directly to the Walton County Sheriff, and not through
65 the Department of Children and Families. The Walton County
66 Sheriff shall establish specific accounts to track child
67 protective investigation budgets and expenditures in compliance
68 with the standards contained in this section.

69 (e) Program performance evaluation shall be based on
70 criteria mutually agreed upon by the respective sheriffs and the
71 Department of Children and Families. The program performance
72 evaluation shall be conducted by a team of peer reviewers from
73 the respective sheriffs' offices that perform child protective
74 investigations and representatives from the department. The
75 Department of Children and Families shall submit an annual
76 report regarding quality performance, outcome-measure
77 attainment, and cost efficiency to the President of the Senate,
78 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to the Governor
79 no later than January 31 of each year the sheriffs are receiving
80 general appropriations or direct funding to provide child
81 protective investigations.

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