

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to economic self-sufficiency; amending
3 s. 414.065, F.S.; providing that a participant has
4 good cause for noncompliance with work requirements
5 for a specified time period under certain
6 circumstances; amending s. 414.105, F.S.; providing
7 requirements for staff members of local workforce
8 development boards when interviewing participants;
9 amending s. 414.455, F.S.; requiring certain persons
10 to participate in an employment and training program;
11 amending s. 445.009, F.S.; requiring benefit
12 management and career planning using a specified tool
13 as part of the state's one-stop delivery system;
14 amending s. 445.011, F.S.; requiring the Department of
15 Commerce to develop certain training; conforming
16 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.
17 445.017, F.S.; requiring a local workforce development
18 board to administer an intake survey; amending s.
19 445.024, F.S.; authorizing certain participants to
20 participate in certain programs or courses for a
21 specified number of hours per week; authorizing the
22 Department of Commerce to suspend certain work
23 requirements under certain circumstances; requiring
24 the department to issue notice to participants under
25 certain circumstances; amending s. 445.028, F.S.;

26 requiring the Department of Children and Families to
27 administer an exit survey; creating s. 445.0281, F.S.;
28 providing voluntary case management services to
29 certain persons for specified purposes; providing
30 requirements for such case management services and
31 case managers; amending s. 445.035, F.S.; requiring
32 CareerSource Florida, Inc., in collaboration with
33 other entities, to develop standardized intake and
34 exit surveys for specified purposes; specifying when
35 such surveys must be administered; providing
36 requirements for such surveys; requiring completed
37 surveys to be submitted to CareerSource Florida, Inc.,
38 and disseminated quarterly to certain departments;
39 requiring the Department of Commerce, in consultation
40 with other entities, to prepare and submit an annual
41 report to the Legislature; providing requirements for
42 such report; creating s. 1002.935, F.S.; creating the
43 School Readiness Subsidy Program within the Department
44 of Education; providing requirements for the program;
45 providing eligibility requirements to receive a
46 subsidy under the program; requiring early learning
47 coalitions to administer the program and provide
48 participants access to a specified tool; providing for
49 the calculation of the amount of the subsidy;
50 providing requirements for parents to receive a

51 subsidy; providing an effective date.

52

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

54

55 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 414.065, Florida
56 Statutes, is amended to read:

57 414.065 Noncompliance with work requirements.—

58 (1) PENALTIES FOR NONPARTICIPATION IN WORK REQUIREMENTS
59 AND FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENT PLANS.—The
60 department shall establish procedures for administering
61 penalties for nonparticipation in work requirements and failure
62 to comply with the alternative requirement plan. If an
63 individual in a family receiving temporary cash assistance fails
64 to engage in work activities required in accordance with s.
65 445.024, the following penalties shall apply. ~~Before~~ Prior to
66 the imposition of a sanction, the participant must ~~shall~~ be
67 notified orally or in writing that the participant is subject to
68 sanction and that action will be taken to impose the sanction
69 unless the participant complies with the work activity
70 requirements. The participant must ~~shall~~ be counseled as to the
71 consequences of noncompliance and, if appropriate, ~~shall be~~
72 referred for services that could assist the participant to fully
73 comply with program requirements. If the participant has good
74 cause for noncompliance or demonstrates satisfactory compliance,
75 the sanction may ~~shall~~ not be imposed. If the requirements of s.

76 445.024(2)(a)1. are suspended pursuant to s. 445.024(2)(a)2., a
77 participant in noncompliance because of such suspension is
78 considered to have good cause for noncompliance for up to 6
79 weeks after the change in the participant's work requirements.

80 If the participant has subsequently obtained employment, the
81 participant must ~~shall~~ be counseled regarding the transitional
82 benefits that may be available and provided information about
83 how to access such benefits. The department shall administer
84 sanctions related to food assistance consistent with federal
85 regulations.

86 (a)1. First noncompliance: temporary cash assistance is
87 ~~shall be~~ terminated for the family for a minimum of 10 days or
88 until the individual who failed to comply does so.

89 2. Second noncompliance: temporary cash assistance is
90 ~~shall be~~ terminated for the family for 1 month or until the
91 individual who failed to comply does so, whichever is later.
92 Upon meeting this requirement, temporary cash assistance must
93 ~~shall~~ be reinstated to the date of compliance or the first day
94 of the month following the penalty period, whichever is later.

95 3. Third noncompliance: temporary cash assistance is ~~shall~~
96 ~~be~~ terminated for the family for 3 months or until the
97 individual who failed to comply does so, whichever is later. The
98 individual must ~~shall be required to~~ comply with the required
99 work activity upon completion of the 3-month penalty period,
100 before reinstatement of temporary cash assistance. Upon meeting

101 this requirement, temporary cash assistance must ~~shall~~ be
 102 reinstated to the date of compliance or the first day of the
 103 month following the penalty period, whichever is later.

104 (b) If a participant receiving temporary cash assistance
 105 who is otherwise exempted from noncompliance penalties fails to
 106 comply with the alternative requirement plan required in
 107 accordance with this section, the penalties provided in
 108 paragraph (a) ~~shall~~ apply.

109
 110 If a participant fully complies with work activity requirements
 111 for at least 6 months, the participant must ~~shall~~ be reinstated
 112 as being in full compliance with program requirements for
 113 purpose of sanctions imposed under this section.

114 Section 2. Subsection (10) of section 414.105, Florida
 115 Statutes, is amended to read:

116 414.105 Time limitations of temporary cash assistance.—
 117 Except as otherwise provided in this section, an applicant or
 118 current participant shall receive temporary cash assistance for
 119 no more than a lifetime cumulative total of 48 months, unless
 120 otherwise provided by law.

121 (10) A member of the staff of the local workforce
 122 development board shall interview and assess the employment
 123 prospects and barriers of each participant who is within 6
 124 months of reaching the 48-month time limit. The staff member
 125 shall do all of the following:

126 (a) Administer the exit survey required under s. 445.035.

127 (b) Use a tool to demonstrate future financial impacts of
 128 the participant's change in income and benefits over time.

129 (c) Assist the participant in identifying actions
 130 necessary to become employed before reaching the benefit time
 131 limit for temporary cash assistance.

132 (d) and, If appropriate, shall refer the participant for
 133 services that could facilitate employment, including, but not
 134 limited to, transitional benefits and services.

135 Section 3. Section 414.455, Florida Statutes, is amended
 136 to read:

137 414.455 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program;
 138 legislative authorization; mandatory participation in employment
 139 and training programs.—

140 (1) Notwithstanding s. 414.45, and unless expressly
 141 required by federal law, the department must ~~shall~~ obtain
 142 specific authorization from the Legislature before seeking,
 143 applying for, accepting, or renewing any waiver of work
 144 requirements established by the Supplemental Nutrition
 145 Assistance Program under 7 U.S.C. s. 2015(o).

146 (2) Unless prohibited by the Federal Government, the
 147 department must require a person who is receiving food
 148 assistance; who is 18 to 59 years of age, inclusive; who does
 149 not have children under the age of 18 in his or her home; who
 150 does not qualify for an exemption; and who is determined by the

151 department to be eligible, to participate in an employment and
 152 training program.

153 Section 4. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section
 154 445.009, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (l), and
 155 a new paragraph (k) is added to that subsection, to read:

156 445.009 One-stop delivery system.—

157 (1) The one-stop delivery system is the state's primary
 158 customer-service strategy for offering every Floridian access,
 159 through service sites or telephone or computer networks, to the
 160 following services:

161 (k) Benefit management and career planning using a tool to
 162 demonstrate future financial impacts of the participant's change
 163 in income and benefits over time.

164 Section 5. Subsections (1) and (5) of section 445.011,
 165 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

166 445.011 Consumer-first workforce system.—

167 (1) The department, in consultation with the state board,
 168 the Department of Education, and the Department of Children and
 169 Families, shall implement, subject to legislative appropriation,
 170 an automated consumer-first workforce system that improves
 171 coordination among required one-stop partners and is necessary
 172 for the efficient and effective operation and management of the
 173 workforce development system. This system must ~~shall~~ include,
 174 but is ~~need~~ not ~~be~~ limited to, the following:

175 (a) An integrated management system for the one-stop

176 service delivery system, which includes, at a minimum, common
177 registration and intake for required one-stop partners,
178 screening for needs and benefits, benefit management and career
179 planning using a tool to demonstrate future financial impacts of
180 the participant's change in income and benefits over time, case
181 management, training benefits management, service and training
182 provider management, performance reporting, executive
183 information and reporting, and customer-satisfaction tracking
184 and reporting.

185 1. The system should report current budgeting,
186 expenditure, and performance information for assessing
187 performance related to outcomes, service delivery, and financial
188 administration for workforce programs pursuant to s. 445.004(5)
189 and (9).

190 2. The system should include auditable systems and
191 controls to ensure financial integrity and valid and reliable
192 performance information.

193 3. The system should support service integration and case
194 management across programs and agencies by providing for case
195 tracking for participants in workforce programs, participants
196 who receive benefits pursuant to public assistance programs
197 under chapter 414, and participants in welfare transition
198 programs under this chapter.

199 (b) An automated job-matching information system that is
200 accessible to employers, job seekers, and other users via the

201 Internet, and that includes, at a minimum, all of the following:

202 1. Skill match information, including skill gap analysis;
 203 resume creation; job order creation; skill tests; job search by
 204 area, employer type, and employer name; and training provider
 205 linkage. ~~†~~

206 2. Job market information based on surveys, including
 207 local, state, regional, national, and international occupational
 208 and job availability information. ~~† and~~

209 3. Service provider information, including education and
 210 training providers, child care facilities and related
 211 information, health and social service agencies, and other
 212 providers of services that would be useful to job seekers.

213 (5) The department shall develop training for required
 214 one-stop partners on the use of the consumer-first workforce
 215 system, best practices for the use of a tool demonstrating
 216 future financial impacts of the participant's change in income
 217 and benefits over time, the different case management methods,
 218 the availability of welfare transition services, and how to
 219 prequalify individuals for workforce programs.

220 Section 6. Subsection (4) of section 445.017, Florida
 221 Statutes, is amended to read:

222 445.017 Diversion.—

223 (4) (a) The local workforce development board shall screen
 224 each family on a case-by-case basis for barriers to obtaining or
 225 retaining employment. The screening must ~~shall~~ identify barriers

226 that, if corrected, may prevent the family from receiving
 227 temporary cash assistance on a regular basis. At the time of
 228 screening, the local workforce development board shall
 229 administer the intake survey required under s. 445.035(2).

230 (b) Assistance to overcome a barrier to employment is not
 231 limited to cash, but may include vouchers or other in-kind
 232 benefits.

233 Section 7. Subsection (2) of section 445.024, Florida
 234 Statutes, is amended to read:

235 445.024 Work requirements.—

236 (2) WORK ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS.—Each individual who is not
 237 otherwise exempt from work activity requirements must
 238 participate in a work activity for the maximum number of hours
 239 allowable under federal law; however, a participant may not be
 240 required to work more than 40 hours per week. The maximum number
 241 of hours each month that a family may be required to participate
 242 in community service or work experience programs is the number
 243 of hours that would result from dividing the family's monthly
 244 amount for temporary cash assistance and food assistance by the
 245 applicable minimum wage. However, the maximum hours required per
 246 week for community service or work experience may not exceed 40
 247 hours.

248 (a)1. A participant who has not earned a high school
 249 diploma or its equivalent may participate in adult general
 250 education, as defined in s. 1004.02(3), or a high school

251 equivalency examination preparation, as defined in s.
252 1004.02(16). A participant must participate in such program or
253 course for at least 20 hours per week in order to satisfy the
254 participant's work activity requirement.

255 2. If the state's TANF work participation rate, as
256 provided by federal law, does not exceed the federal minimum
257 work participation rate by 10 percentage points in any month,
258 the requirements of this subsection may be suspended by the
259 department until the work participation rate exceeds the federal
260 minimum work participation rate by 10 percentage points for at
261 least 3 consecutive months.

262 3. If the requirements of this subsection are suspended,
263 the department must issue notice to the affected participants of
264 the changed work requirements within 5 days after the change in
265 such work requirements.

266 (b)(a) A participant in a work activity may also be
267 required to enroll in and attend a course of instruction
268 designed to increase literacy skills to a level necessary for
269 obtaining or retaining employment if the instruction plus the
270 work activity does not require more than 40 hours per week.

271 (c)(b) Program funds may be used, as available, to support
272 the efforts of a participant who meets the work activity
273 requirements and who wishes to enroll in or continue enrollment
274 in an adult general education program or other training
275 programs.

276 Section 8. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 445.028,
 277 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

278 445.028 Transitional benefits and services.—In cooperation
 279 with the department, the Department of Children and Families
 280 shall develop procedures to ensure that families leaving the
 281 temporary cash assistance program receive transitional benefits
 282 and services that will assist the family in moving toward self-
 283 sufficiency. At a minimum, such procedures must include, but are
 284 not limited to, the following:

285 (1) Each recipient of cash assistance who is determined
 286 ineligible for cash assistance for a reason other than a work
 287 activity sanction must ~~shall~~ be contacted by the workforce
 288 system case manager and provided information about the
 289 availability of transitional benefits and services. Such contact
 290 must include the administration of the exit survey required
 291 under s. 445.035(2) and ~~shall~~ be attempted before ~~prior to~~
 292 closure of the case management file.

293 (2) Each recipient of temporary cash assistance who is
 294 determined ineligible for cash assistance due to noncompliance
 295 with the work activity requirements must ~~shall~~ be contacted and
 296 provided information in accordance with s. 414.065(1). Such
 297 contact must include the administration of the exit survey
 298 required under s. 445.035(2).

299 Section 9. Section 445.0281, Florida Statutes, is created
 300 to read:

301 445.0281 Transitional case management.—Each recipient of
 302 cash assistance who is determined ineligible for cash assistance
 303 for a reason other than noncompliance with work activity
 304 requirements is eligible for voluntary case management services
 305 administered by the local workforce development board. Case
 306 management services must be available to support families who
 307 transition to economic self-sufficiency and to mitigate
 308 dependency on cash assistance. Case management services must
 309 include, but are not limited to, career planning, job search
 310 assistance, resume building, basic financial planning,
 311 connection to support services, and benefits management using a
 312 tool to demonstrate future financial impacts of the
 313 participant's change in income and benefits over time, as
 314 applicable. Case managers must connect recipients to other
 315 transitional benefits as needed.

316 Section 10. Section 445.035, Florida Statutes, is amended
 317 to read:

318 445.035 Data collection and reporting.—

319 (1) The Department of Children and Families and the state
 320 board shall collect data necessary to administer this chapter
 321 and make the reports required under federal law to the United
 322 States Department of Health and Human Services and the United
 323 States Department of Agriculture.

324 (2) CareerSource Florida, Inc., in collaboration with the
 325 department, the Department of Children and Families, and the

326 local workforce development boards, shall develop standardized
327 intake and exit surveys for the purpose of collecting and
328 aggregating data to monitor program effectiveness, inform
329 program improvements, and allocate resources.

330 (a) The intake survey must be administered by the local
331 workforce development boards during the required diversion
332 screening process under s. 445.017. The intake survey must be
333 administered to each new recipient of temporary cash assistance
334 under chapter 414 who has not otherwise completed the survey.

335 (b) The intake survey must, at a minimum, collect
336 qualitative or quantitative data, as applicable, relating to all
337 of the following:

338 1. The recipient's perceived individual barriers to
339 employment.

340 2. The reasons cited by the recipient for his or her
341 separation from employment in the previous 12 months.

342 3. The recipient's stated goals for employment or
343 professional development.

344 4. The recipient's highest level of education or
345 credentials attained or training received at the time of
346 enrollment.

347 5. The recipient's awareness of welfare transition
348 services.

349 (c) The exit survey must be administered by the local
350 workforce development boards to recipients of temporary cash

351 assistance under chapter 414 as recipients prepare to transition
352 off of temporary cash assistance. Based on a recipient's
353 circumstances, the exit survey must be administered to the
354 recipient at one of the following points of contact:

355 1. The recipient is approaching the statutory time
356 limitation for temporary cash assistance and is interviewed
357 pursuant to s. 414.105(10); or

358 2. At such time when the recipient becomes ineligible for
359 cash assistance and is contacted pursuant to s. 445.028.

360 (d) The exit survey must, at a minimum, collect data
361 relating to all of the following:

362 1. The recipient's enrollment in other public benefits
363 programs at the time of exit.

364 2. Whether the recipient has a long-term career plan.

365 3. The recipient's credentials or education attained or
366 training received during enrollment.

367 4. Barriers to the recipient's employment which were
368 addressed during enrollment.

369 5. Any remaining barriers to the recipient's employment.

370 (e) The completed surveys must be submitted to
371 CareerSource Florida, Inc., and anonymized data must be
372 disseminated quarterly to the department and the Department of
373 Children and Families.

374 (f) The department, in consultation with CareerSource
375 Florida, Inc., and the Department of Children and Families,

376 shall prepare and submit to the President of the Senate and the
377 Speaker of the House of Representatives a report by January 1 of
378 each year. The report must include, at a minimum, the results of
379 the intake and exit surveys, an analysis of the barriers to
380 employment experienced by the survey respondents, and any
381 recommendations for legislative and administrative changes to
382 mitigate such barriers and improve the effective use of
383 transitional benefits.

384 Section 11. Section 1002.935, Florida Statutes, is created
385 to read:

386 1002.935 School Readiness Subsidy Program.—The School
387 Readiness Subsidy Program is created within the Department of
388 Education to support the continued school readiness and child
389 care needs of working families with children. The program is
390 contingent upon a legislative appropriation and is provided on a
391 first-come, first-served basis.

392 (1)(a) A child who is determined to be ineligible for
393 school readiness program funds due to family income during the
394 annual eligibility determination pursuant to s. 1002.87(6) is
395 eligible for a subsidy under this section if the family income
396 is between 85 percent and 100 percent, inclusive, of the state
397 median income.

398 (b) The early learning coalitions established in s.
399 1002.83 shall administer the School Readiness Subsidy Program
400 and provide participants with access to the benefit management

401 and career planning tool described in s. 445.009(1)(k).

402 (2)(a) The amount of the subsidy is a percentage of the
403 early learning coalition's approved school readiness program
404 provider reimbursement rates as calculated pursuant to s.
405 1002.84(17). An early learning coalition shall consider family
406 income and a required parent copayment that increases in
407 relation to the family income when establishing the percentage
408 for the amount of the subsidy for the program.

409 (b) The amount of the subsidy and parent copayment must be
410 sufficient to allow the family to access child care providers
411 pursuant to s. 1002.88 and enable the parent to achieve self-
412 sufficiency.

413 (3) For a parent to receive a subsidy under the program,
414 he or she must:

415 (a) Submit an application to the early learning coalition
416 in a format prescribed by the Department of Education.

417 (b) Provide any documentation necessary to verify the
418 parent's eligibility to receive the subsidy.

419 (c) Be responsible for the payment of all child care
420 expenses in excess of the amount of the subsidy.

421 Section 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.