

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 1845 Department of Children and Family Services  
**SPONSOR(S):** Appropriations  
**TIED BILLS:** **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

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<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>ANALYST</b>	<b>STAFF DIRECTOR</b>
1) Appropriations	25Y, 11N	Rice	Baker
2)			
3)			
4)			
5)			

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**SUMMARY ANALYSIS**

The bill makes organizational changes to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The act creates six zones into which the 13 department districts and the region are divided.

## FULL ANALYSIS

### I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

#### A. DOES THE BILL:

- |                                      |                              |                             |   |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Reduce government?                | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Lower taxes?                      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Expand individual freedom?        | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Increase personal responsibility? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Empower families?                 | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

This bill restructures the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) by creating 6 organizational "zones" to which the districts, subdistricts, and the region will be assigned. Each zone will have a zone director position, appointed by the secretary.

#### B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill reorganizes the Department of Children and Family Services in order to achieve a cost savings from the efficiencies of establishing zones comprised of one or more DCFS districts and the region. The 13 districts and the region are assigned to one of 6 zones. Zone directors are given the responsibility of providing administrative support to the district/region offices.

The Department of Children and Family Services is currently authorized to establish program offices within its organizational structure. Program offices are not standard in the structure of most other state departments. The bill clarifies that for DCFS, program offices fall under the division level and above the bureau level.

The bill provides that the Assistant Secretary for Substance Abuse and Mental Health will now be called the Assistant Secretary for the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health and will supervise the substance abuse and mental health programs. Supervision of these programs is also vested with a Program Director for Substance Abuse and a Program Director for Mental Health. These changes modify the department's structure consistent with Chapter 2003-279, Laws of Florida, which created the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Corporation, and revised the organizational structure of DCFS in this program area.

The bill clarifies that an Assistant Secretary heads the Division of Programs and is to be appointed by the Secretary. This Assistant Secretary heads all of the program offices other than those for substance abuse and mental health. The position of Assistant Secretary for the Division of Administration is created to supervise all administrative, financial and budget functions, and the position of Assistant Secretary for the Division of Operations will manage and operate the department's zones and districts.

The bill establishes 6 zones, comprised of DCFS districts and subdistricts. Zone directors are appointed by the Secretary and are charged with providing administrative support, including technical assistance, budget and financial services, data collection, and information technology services.

Current provisions of the Florida Statutes have given district administrators the authority to transfer up to 10% of the district budget upon approval of the department secretary and notwithstanding the budget amendment procedures of Chapter 216. However, the implementing bill for the last year has precluded exercising that authority. The bill would amend the statute to provide that any transfer authority beyond Chapter 216 will be set forth in the General Appropriations Act and the bill implementing the appropriations act.

C. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends section 20.04, Florida Statutes, to specify the hierarchy of unit divisions within the executive branch of state government.

Section 2. Amends section 20.19, Florida Statutes; to add zones to the internal structure of the Department of Children and Family Services and designate the geographic area of each zone; to modify deputy and assistant secretary positions within the department and to state the responsibilities of each position; to amend the transfer authority of district administrators; and, to direct the appointment of zone directors and define the responsibilities of the zone directors.

Section 3 through 7. Amends sections of the Florida Statutes to correct cross references.

Section 8. The bill is effective July 1, 2004.

**II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues: None.

2. Expenditures: The proposal contained in this bill was an initiative developed by the Department of Children and Family Services. The Governor's recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2004-2005 contains an issue to implement this initiative and reflects reductions of 484 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions. Also recommended was the reduction of \$20,165,744 in funding associated with these positions. This recommendation was developed from data assembled by a department task force which determined that, through the establishment of a zone structure, efficiencies in operations could be achieved.

The department and the Governor's recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2004-2005 estimate available efficiencies through the creation of 6 zones. These efficiencies include the reduction of 484 FTE and reduction in the DCFS' budget of the following funds:

	<b>FY 2004-05</b>	<b>FY 2005-06</b>
GENERAL REVENUE	\$ 9,610,438	\$ 9,610,438
TOBACCO SETTLEMENT TRUST FUNDS	\$ 553,053	\$ 553,053
OTHER TRUST FUNDS	<u>\$10,002,253</u>	<u>\$10,002,253</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$20,165,744</u></b>	<b><u>\$20,165,744</u></b>

The House Committee on Appropriations proposed General Appropriations Act contains reductions in positions and recurring budget of the amounts above which were proposed in the Governor's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2004-2005.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues: None.

2. Expenditures: None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The bill requires that positions within the Department of Children and Family Services be titled as Assistant Secretary for Programs, Assistant Secretary for Administration, and Assistant Secretary for Operations; however, all of these positions will be funded using existing resources. No additional funds or positions are appropriated or required to implement this bill. The provisions of the bill are projected to achieve administrative efficiencies and save resources as described above.

### **III. COMMENTS**

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision: None.

2. Other: None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

### **IV. AMENDMENTS/COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES**

An amendment to Section 1 of the bill was adopted by the House Committee on Appropriations which eliminates duplicate phrasing in the bill and makes the provisions of the bill internally consistent.