

April 30, 2010

The Conference Committee Amendment for HB 5305 (CS/CS/SB 1466), relating to Child Welfare provides for the following:

- The amendment requires child welfare contracting agencies to limit administrative monitoring to once every three years if the contracted provider is accredited by specified accrediting organizations, and mandates the department to limit contract monitoring of a child-caring or child-placing provider to only once per year.
- The amendment authorizes private-sector development and implementation of an Internet-based secure and consolidated data warehouse for maintaining corporate, fiscal and administrative records related to child welfare provider contracts, and requires state agencies that contract with child welfare providers to access records from this database, unless records are outdated or unavailable.
- The amendment authorizes community-based care agencies to roll forward unspent state funds from fiscal year to fiscal year up to a maximum of eight percent of the contract amount, and requires the community-based care agencies to spend these carry-forward funds on nonrecurring activities that have been approved by the Department of Children and Family Services.
- The amendment grants the Department of Children and Family Services authority to outsource program, administrative or fiscal oversight monitoring of community-based agencies and authorizes these agencies to use funding received through contracts for certain expenditures including staff cellular telephone allowances, contracts requiring deferred payments and maintenance agreements, security deposits for office leases, professional fees, costs of promotional materials and grant writing.
- The amendment authorizes the Department of Children and Families to serve dependent children deemed to be in need of family-centered, cognitive-behavioral interventions designed to mitigate out-of-home placements.
- The amendment repeals section 409.1663, Florida Statutes, and amends section 409.166, Florida Statutes, to conform to the total elimination of the funding for adoption benefits for qualifying adopting employees of state agencies in the General Appropriations Act.
- The amendment has an effective date of July 1, 2010.