

## **Florida Children and Youth Cabinet Agencies' Legislative Priorities**

### Agency for Healthcare Administration

- Regulatory Reform
  - To reduce the regulatory burden on healthcare providers by streamlining processes and the elimination of unnecessary reporting.
- Medicaid Provider Accountability
  - Authorizes certain changes in the oversight of Medicaid providers to ensure the integrity of the program now, and in the future.

### Agency for Persons with Disabilities

- Waiver Program Service Limits
  - This proposal amends Florida Statutes Chapter 393, to define core services in order to operate a cost effective waiver program.
- Involuntary Admission to Residential Services
  - This proposal amends Florida Statutes Chapter 393, giving the Agency authority to file for involuntary admission to residential services.
- Final Order Authority
  - This proposal adds final order language to APD's hearings process as defined in Section 393.125, Florida Statutes.

### Department of Children and Families

- Child Protective Investigator Redesign
  - Update and modify Florida Statutes Chapter 39, "Proceedings Related to Children," in order to improve the child protective investigation process and eliminate duplication. It will also provide the framework for a differential response system to address how investigations are conducted. Additional changes seek to Increase penalties against a person who commits certain crimes against DCF Protective Investigators while the investigator is engaged in the lawful performance of his or her duties.
- Academic Success for Foster Children
  - Identify a framework of education initiatives that help to ensure children in the child welfare system are prepared to be successful in life. Through a combined strategy to remove barriers and better coordinate federal, state and local education initiatives, Florida's children will be prepared to succeed at home, school and work.

## Department of Education

- Differentiated Accountability Bill
  - Reduces the number of school improvement categories from 6 to 4.
  - Redefines entrance criteria for lowest performing category as a school grade of F; removes AYP criteria.
  - Redefines exit criteria from the lowest performing category as improving to a school grade of C and meeting a reading and math proficiency target.
  - Establishes a hold status for up to two years when only one of the exit criteria are met.
  - Clarifies a school has two complete years to implement first turnaround option before required to implement another if still in the lowest performing category.
  - Eliminates sanctions and conditions for previously identified schools in the lowest performing category if they meet the new exit criteria.
  
- Voluntary Prekindergarten Bill
  - Requires each private and public school prekindergarten provider to use an evidence based curriculum approved by the Department.
  - Requires independent pre and post assessments for all VPK providers.
  - Includes an estimated cost of \$8,721,000 which has been included in the Department's Legislative Budget Request.
  
- School Accountability Bill
  - Requires a Level 2 background screening requirement for owners and operators of private schools participating in the state school choice scholarship programs.
  - Provides for clarification of the criteria for maintaining a high performing status for charter schools.
  - Requires testing and auditing requirements for McKay Scholarship schools consistent with the requirements for the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program.

## Department of Health

- Reorganization of the Department
  
- Emergency Suspension Orders
  - Would provide for the department to obtain patient records without written authorization from the patient pursuant to a subpoena under several particular circumstances or for the purpose of investigating inappropriate prescribing or overprescribing.
  - Authorizes the department to issue an emergency order to suspend or restrict the license of any health care practitioner who is arrested for an action that would constitute a violation of the applicable practice act.

## Department of Juvenile Justice

- The proposed legislation would provide statutory authority for the Department's current policy of paying up to \$5,000 toward the funeral expenses for certain youth that die in the custody of the Department. The legislation also authorizes the court to commit a youth to the Department of Juvenile Justice for placement in a mother-infant program. The mother-infant program must be licensed as a childcare facility and must follow rules promulgated by DJJ. This would allow juvenile mothers to stay with their babies while fulfilling juvenile justice residential commitment requirements.

## Guardian ad Litem

- Budget Increase
  - The Guardian ad Litem Program's base budget is \$31,333,289. The Guardian ad Litem Program is seeking an increase to our base budget in the amount of \$3,914,598. This will increase Guardian ad Litem representation from 70% to 80% of the children in dependency court. This budget increase is part of the Guardian ad Litem 5 year Long Range Program plan to have 100% representation, as required by state and federal law.

## Office of Early Learning

- Adequate Funding
  - The Office of Early Learning's Legislative Priorities focus on ensuring adequate funding for the State's Early Learning programs as well as funding for the Early Learning Information System (ELIS).
  - The Office is requesting \$3,931,680 in nonrecurring General Revenue to ensure that the state is able to draw down all federal dollars associated with the School Readiness program.
  - The Office is requesting an increase of \$7,747,247 in General Revenue to support increased enrollment in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.
  - The Office is requesting a total of \$5,488,502 of federal and state funding to complete the design, development, and implementation of the Early Learning Information System. This technology solution will replace a 20-year old legacy system that will result in an estimated cost savings of \$28 million annually due to realized efficiencies.