

Florida

Department of Education

Bill Number: House Bill 1309

Bill Title: Adoption and child protection

Bill Sponsor: Representative Galvano, Policy and Budget Council

Effective Date: July 1, 2007

DOE Contact: Bambi Lockman, Chief, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services,
(850) 245-0475

Executive Summary:

The bill renames the Office of Child Abuse and Prevention created in 2006 within the Executive Office of the Governor as the Office of Adoption and Child Protection; and

- Revises the purpose of the Office to include the promotion of adoption and the support of adoptive families in a state plan for the prevention of abuse, abandonment, and neglect of children.
- Renames the director of the office as the Chief Child Advocate.
- Renames the Child Abuse Prevention Advisory Council as the Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council. The council will be comprised of representatives from each state agency (including the Department of Education) and appropriate local agencies and organizations.
- Provides that the Office will work with the Department of Education and the Department of Health to develop ways to inform and instruct parents and school district personnel in the detection of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect.
- Authorizes the Office to establish a direct support organization and specifies the purposes, requirements, and objectives of the organization.
- Provides for the amount of adoption assistance payments to adoptive parents, subject to appropriations.

General Implementation Timeline:

- Annual report is due on January 1 of each year to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the president of the Senate, the secretary of each state agency affected by the report, and the appropriate substantive committees of the Legislature (in the original legislation passed in 2006).
- The state plan for the promotion of adoption, support of adoptive families, and the prevention of abuse, abandonment, and neglect of children is to be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the Governor no later than December 31, 2008.
- The state plan shall be readdressed every five years, at a minimum (in the original legislation passed in 2006).