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## SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Date: March 18, 1998

Revised: 3/23/98 \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Relocation Assistance/WAGES

	<u>Analyst</u>	<u>Staff Director</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	Crosby	Whiddon	CF	Fav/4 amendments
2.			CM	
3.			WM	
4.				
5.				

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### I. Summary:

Senate Bill 2014 establishes a relocation assistance program to assist WAGES participants in relocating within the state when there is a basis to believe that the relocation will contribute to the applicant's ability to achieve self-sufficiency. The Department of Children and Family Services (the department) is to utilize a five step program for the purposes of this program; that program is detailed in this bill and is discussed in further detail below. Provisions are made for restrictions upon future assistance unless the purpose of receipt of the relocation assistance involves domestic violence. This act shall take effect July 1 of the year in which enacted.

This bill substantially amends section 414.155, Florida Statutes.

### II. Present Situation:

Currently, the state does not provide financial relocation assistance to families under any circumstances.

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 creates the relocation assistance program. This program is established to help families in relocating to communities which will offer the family greater opportunities for self-sufficiency. A five step process for the department to utilize in administering this program is offered, as follows:

- Step 1 - A determination of eligibility by the department that the applicant is a WAGES participant or is likely to meet all the requirements of eligibility for WAGES.

- Step 2 - A determination or basis for believing that relocation will contribute to the ability of the applicant to achieve self-sufficiency. Factors include the unlikelihood of achieving independence in the current community; having secured a job elsewhere; or that the applicant is a victim of domestic violence.
- Step 3 - The establishment of a relocation plan; payment to defray the cost of relocation will not exceed four months temporary cash assistance.
- Step 4 - Determining if the community receiving the relocated person can provide needed services and employment opportunities; this determination is pursuant to criteria adopted by the WAGES State Board.
- Step 5 - Monitoring the relocation. The bill does not specify what would be expected of the monitoring responsibility.

A family receiving relocation assistance for reasons other than domestic violence must sign an agreement restricting the family from applying for cash assistance for 6 months, absent demonstration of an emergency. If an emergency is demonstrated, repayment will be made on a prorated basis over an 8-month period. The bill does not affect the length of time for which domestic violence victims would be eligible to receive cash assistance.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1 of the year in which enacted.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

##### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

##### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

##### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

#### **V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

##### **A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

Unknown.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The department reports that the number of potential participants is indeterminate. However, the diversion aspect of this program is estimated to result in a net savings in benefit dollars for the department.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

#1 by Children, Families and Seniors:

This amendment provides that the Department of Labor and Employment Security will assist the Department of Children and Family Services in developing the five step plan.

#2 by Children, Families and Seniors:

This amendment provides that the determination of whether the victim of domestic violence would experience a reduced probability of further incidences upon relocation will be subject to criteria or procedures established by the State WAGES Board.

#3 by Children, Families and Seniors:

This amendment provides that the relocation plan may require that expenditures be made on behalf of the recipient and that the plan for victims of domestic violence must include provisions to protect the safety of the victim.

#4 by Children, Families and Seniors:

This amendment clarifies that the one-time payment will not count toward the time limitations, as set out in s. 414414.105, F.S.