

By the Committee on Children & Family Empowerment and
Representative Lacasa

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to an integrated children's
3 information system; providing legislative
4 findings and intent; directing the State
5 Technology Council to assess the feasibility of
6 creating such a system; requiring a report;
7 providing an effective date.

8
9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10
11 Section 1. (1) The Legislature recognizes that many
12 state agencies provide programs for at-risk children and
13 youth. The Legislature further recognizes that the ideal of
14 seamless cooperation and coordination among these programs is
15 rarely, if ever, achieved and that the result is duplication
16 and fragmentation of services, reduced effectiveness, and the
17 waste of precious resources. Finally, the Legislature finds
18 that a wealth of information is collected on children by
19 schools, state agencies, local agencies, and service providers
20 that has the potential to improve services, identify
21 candidates for early intervention, and improve coordination
22 and reduce redundant services. Therefore, it is the intent of
23 the Legislature to establish an information sharing system to
24 give the Department of Children and Family Services, the
25 Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Department of
26 Education access to information which can improve and
27 integrate case management for programs for children and youth.

28 (2) The State Technology Council shall provide by
29 November 1, 1998, to the Speaker of the House of
30 Representatives and the President of the Senate, an assessment
31 of the feasibility of creating an integrated children's

1 information system which allows for coordinated case
2 management among programs offered by the Department of
3 Children and Family Services, the Department of Juvenile
4 Justice, and the Department of Education. The assessment shall
5 at a minimum address the following questions:

6 (a) What data elements should be considered for
7 sharing and what benefits can be anticipated from sharing this
8 information?

9 (b) What are the barriers to the sharing of this
10 client information among these agencies, including, but not
11 limited to, legal barriers such as confidentiality and
12 technical barriers such as the problem of establishing a
13 common identifier?

14 (c) What are the additional barriers to the creation
15 of an online real-time system which provides for the sharing
16 of information on all persons receiving services?

17 (d) Are there examples from Florida or other states of
18 these or similar barriers being overcome?

19 (e) What is the feasibility of overcoming each
20 barrier?

21 (f) What is the appropriate state organization to
22 provide planning and coordination for the implementation of an
23 information sharing system as described in this section?

24 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
25 law.

26
27
28
29
30
31

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

HOUSE SUMMARY

Provides legislative findings and intent and directs the State Technology Council to assess the feasibility of establishing a system for sharing information on and coordinating programs for children and youth among the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Education. Requires a report to the Legislature by November 1, 1998.