

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.)

BILL: CS/SB 2462

SPONSOR: Committee on Children and Families and Senator Mitchell

SUBJECT: Federally Funded Services for Children

DATE: April 15, 1999 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Barnes</u>	<u>Whiddon</u>	<u>CF</u>	<u>Favorable/CS</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 2462 removes two references in s. 409.26731, F.S., to specific appropriations in the 1997-1998 General Appropriations Act and removes the provision that authorizes the Department of Children and Family Services (department) to certify local funds as state match for children's mental health services funded by Medicaid. The department would be authorized to certify local funds as state match for eligible Title IV-E expenditures in excess of the amount of state general revenue matching funds appropriated in the General Appropriations Act for services to this population. The bill allows the department to retain up to 5 percent of these earnings for administrative purposes.

The department must prepare an annual report and submit it to the Legislature no later than January 1 documenting all activities accomplished during the previous year pertaining to local funds as match for Title IV-E expenditures.

This bill amends section 409.26731, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Chapter 97-260, L.O.F., created s. 409.26731, F.S., to implement a specific appropriation in the 1997-1998 General Appropriations Act. The Department of Children and Family Services was authorized to certify local funds, in an amount not to exceed \$5 million, as state match for children's mental health services funded by Medicaid in excess of the amount of state general revenue matching funds appropriated through the General Appropriations Act. Also, the department was authorized to certify local funds not to exceed \$5 million as state match for eligible Title IV-E services for children under the supervision and custody of the state. Federal matching funds are automatically passed through to the local jurisdiction that provided the certified local match and do not result in a reduction of General Revenue for the local area receiving the federal matching funds.

The law also authorizes the Agency for Health Care Administration to apply for federal waivers to modify the state Medicaid plan to include optional Medicaid in-home and therapeutic services for Medicaid-eligible children if the state match is provided by local funds certified by the department as state match. These services are available only in communities that provide the certified match.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

CS/SB 2462 amends s. 409.26731, F.S., by deleting two references to specific appropriations in the 1997-1998 General Appropriations Act. The bill also deletes the provision that authorizes the Department of Children and Family Services to certify local funds as state match for children's mental health services funded by Medicaid in excess of the amount of state general revenue matching funds appropriated for these services through the General Appropriations Act. The Department of Children and Family Services would be authorized to certify local funds as state match for eligible Title IV-E expenditures in excess of the amount of state general revenue matching funds appropriated for child welfare services in the General Appropriations Act.

The bill allows the department to retain up to 5 percent of these earnings for administrative purposes. The department is directed to prepare a report to the Legislature no later than January 1 of each year documenting the specific activities accomplished during the previous year pertaining to the implementation of this bill.

The bill removes the language authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to apply for federal waivers to modify the state Medicaid plan for including optional Medicaid in-home and therapeutic services for Medicaid-eligible children.

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:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

CS/SB 2462 does not require any additional state general revenue funds. The department reports that the following counties have provided over \$1 million of local county funds to match federal funds for Title IV-E services: Sarasota, Duval, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Brevard, Orange, Osceola, and Broward. These local county funds have generated additional federal funds for child welfare services in their counties. CS/SB 2462 would enable these counties and other counties to earn additional federal funds if county funds are available.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
