

HB 0517

2004

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the Child Advocacy Trust Fund; creating the Child Advocacy Trust Fund within the Department of Children and Family Services; providing for sources of funds and purposes; requiring the development of an allocation methodology for distributing funds deposited in the trust fund; providing for funds to establish child advocacy centers; providing for future legislative review and termination or re-creation of the trust fund; providing a contingent effective date.

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

Section 1. Child Advocacy Trust Fund.--

(1)(a) The Child Advocacy Trust Fund is created within the Department of Children and Family Services for the purpose of receiving funds collected from the additional court cost imposed in cases of certain crimes against minors under s. 938.10, Florida Statutes. Funds shall be appropriated to the Department of Children and Family Services for the specific purpose of funding child advocacy centers. Funds shall be disbursed to the Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc., as established under s. 39.3035, Florida Statutes, for the purpose of providing community-based services that augment, but that do not duplicate, services provided by state agencies.

(b) The Board of Directors of the Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Inc., shall retain 10 percent of all revenues collected for network expenditures to provide funds to match local contributions in communities establishing child

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30 advocacy centers. The board of directors must develop funding  
31 criteria and an allocation methodology that ensure an equitable  
32 distribution of remaining funds among network participants. The  
33 criteria and methodology must take into account factors that  
34 include, but need not be limited to, the center's accreditation  
35 status with respect to the National Children's Alliance, the  
36 number of clients served, and the population of the area being  
37 served by the child advocacy center.

38 (2) Pursuant to Section 19(f)(2), Article III of the State  
39 Constitution, the trust fund shall, unless terminated sooner, be  
40 terminated on July 1, 2008. Before its scheduled termination,  
41 the trust fund shall be reviewed as provided in s. 215.3206(1)  
42 and (2), Florida Statutes.

43 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004, if  
44 House Bill 515 or similar legislation is adopted in the same  
45 legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes law.