## Florida Senate - 2006

CS for SB 1372

By the Committee on Judiciary; and Senator Wise

590-1978-06

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to children in foster care;
3	providing for the creation of the Community
4	Advisory Panel on Foster Care Pilot Program in
5	Duval County; providing purposes and goals;
6	providing for cooperative participation by
7	specified entities and individuals; creating
8	the Community Advisory Panel on Foster Care;
9	providing for panel membership; providing for a
10	chairperson; providing duties of specified
11	judges and panel members; providing for
12	administration by a community-based care lead
13	agency; providing for hiring specified
14	personnel; requiring development of an
15	assessment tool to determine the effectiveness
16	of the program; requiring an annual report;
17	providing for future expiration of the pilot
18	program; providing an appropriation; requiring
19	a contract with the community-based care lead
20	agency; providing an effective date.
21	
22	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
23	
24	Section 1. <u>Community Advisory Panel on Foster Care</u>
25	<u>Pilot Program; creation; purpose; panel membership; court and</u>
26	panel duties; administration; evaluation
27	(1) There is created the Community Advisory Panel on
28	Foster Care Pilot Program in Duval County. The purpose of the
29	program is to identify educational needs and follow-up
30	strategies for foster children who are 6 through 12 years of
31	age and are enrolled in the Duval County school system. The

**CODING:** Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

1	goal of the program is to ensure that youth who are in foster
2	care will be tested appropriately and placed in an educational
3	environment that optimizes their opportunities for success.
4	(2) The pilot program shall consist of the cooperative
5	efforts of:
6	(a) The Community Advisory Panel on Foster Care, as
7	created under this section;
8	(b) The community-based care lead agency for foster
9	care and adoption in Duval County;
10	(c) The case managers assigned to children in foster
11	<u>care;</u>
12	(d) The Duval County School Board;
13	(e) Nova Southeastern University;
14	(f) The foster care parents of children currently in
15	the foster care system;
16	(q) When possible, the natural parents of children
17	currently in the foster care system; and
18	(h) The circuit court judge hearing a foster care
19	case.
20	(3)(a) The Community Advisory Panel on Foster Care is
21	created in the Fourth Judicial Circuit and shall consist of
22	the chief judge for the circuit, or another judge from the
23	circuit designated by the chief judge who is the lead judge in
24	the area of dependency and adoption, and 15 community
25	volunteers who are community leaders having abilities and
26	expertise in diverse areas. The chief judge, or the judge
27	designated by the chief judge, shall serve as the chair of the
28	panel. The 15 volunteers shall be comprised of:
29	<u>1. Four members appointed by the chief judge, or by</u>
30	the judge designated by the chief judge;
31	

2

**CODING:** Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

1 Four members appointed by the Secretary of Children 2 and Family Services, or his or her designee; 3 3. Four members appointed by the Duval County School <u>Board; and</u> 4 5 4. Three members appointed by the guardian ad litem 6 for Duval County. 7 (b) The chief judge, or the judge from the circuit designated by the chief judge, may issue orders and obtain 8 9 educational information relating to the students who are 6 to 10 12 years of age and are in the foster care system in District IV of the department. Pursuant to the order, the panel shall 11 review the academic progress, behavioral issues, and 12 13 attendance of each student and shall recommend referral of any student for whom the review demonstrates a need for follow-up 14 services. The panel may prioritize referrals by assessing the 15 severity of need and recommending that the most critical needs 16 17 be met first. A student who is failing may be referred for 18 educational testing, for additional psychological and therapeutic counseling as recommended, or for both, to 19 determine why he or she is failing and what accommodations and 20 21 remediation are needed. 22 (4) The community-based care lead agency shall provide 23 administrative support for the Community Advisory Panel on Foster Care and for the operation of the pilot program. To 2.4 help facilitate the duties of the panel, the agency shall 25 employ: 26 27 (a) A full-time project coordinator who shall assist 2.8 the student's case manager in identifying resources for educational testing and psychological and therapeutic 29 30 counseling. In addition, the project coordinator shall oversee 31

3

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1 the development of an assessment tool that is designed to 2 determine the effectiveness of the pilot program. 1. The purpose of the assessment tool is to link 3 4 systems among providers of educational services, psychological 5 services, and case-management services and the court system. б 2. The entity that designs the assessment tool must, 7 during the first year of the pilot program, undertake the 8 following tasks: 9 Discovery. This phase includes meeting with a. 10 information technology staff from the department, school board staff, and case managers. 11 12 Development. This phase consists of determining the b. 13 best method for data entry, the best database, and the best data format. 14 c. Implementation. This phase comprises completing, 15 16 testing, and delivering the assessment tool. 17 d. Maintenance. This phase involves developing a 18 maintenance plan and schedule, after the initiation of the assessment tool. 19 (b) A full-time psychologist who shall provide 20 21 educational testing and psychological and therapeutic 2.2 counseling to foster care children and provide advice, 23 research, assessments, and other services to the judges. (5) The project coordinator shall submit an annual 2.4 report on the pilot program to the chief judge of the Fourth 25 Judicial Circuit, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of 26 27 the House of Representatives, the State Courts Administrator, 2.8 and the Secretary of Children and Family Services. (6) The pilot program expires on July 1, 2009. 29 Section 2. The sum of \$300,000 is appropriated from 30 the General Revenue Fund to the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court 31

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

1	in Duval County for the 2006-2007 figgal year to be used in
	in Duval County for the 2006-2007 fiscal year, to be used in
2	implementing the Community Advisory Panel on Foster Care Pilot
3	Program created by this act. The chief judge of the Fourth
4	Judicial Circuit shall contract with the community-based care
5	lead agency for foster care and adoption in Duval County for
6	services associated with the administration of the pilot
7	program as provided in this act.
8	Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.
9	
10	STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
11	
12	
13	The committee substitute makes the following changes to the
14	underlying bill:
15	Restructures provisions and revises language for clarity and consistency;
16	Lists additional entities participating in the pilot
17	program, including the local school board, Nova Southeastern University, foster care and natural parents,
18	and the circuit court judge hearing a foster care case;
19	Clarifies references to the chief judge and his or her designee;
20	Makes the provision relating to referrals for further
21	educational testing and psychological treatment permissive rather than mandatory, allowing for a
22	case-by-case determination of whether services are needed;
23	Adds the State Courts Administrator and the Secretary of
24	Children and Family Services to the list of persons receiving the annual report on the pilot program; and
25	Requires the chief judge of the Fourth Judicial Circuit
26	to contract with the community-based care lead agency for services related to the program.
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	
	5
	-

**CODING:** Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.