## Florida Senate - 2007

By the Committee on Commerce

577-723B-07

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to workforce services; amending
3	s. 445.009, F.S.; revising certain requirements
4	for the one-stop delivery system of employment
5	services; deleting a requirement that regional
6	workforce boards enter into memoranda of
7	understanding with the Agency for Workforce
8	Innovation for the delivery of certain
9	services; deleting a requirement that the
10	agency have authority to direct the staff of
11	the workforce system; amending s. 445.024,
12	F.S., relating to work activities for
13	participants in the temporary cash assistance
14	program; revising definitions to conform to the
15	federal law governing work requirements;
16	revising certain requirements for and duties of
17	the regional workforce boards with respect to
18	work requirements for program participants;
19	amending s. 445.032, F.S.; clarifying
20	circumstances under which transitional child
21	care is available to former participants in the
22	welfare transition program and certain other
23	individuals; amending s. 402.305, F.S.,
24	relating to licensing standards; conforming
25	cross-references; providing an effective date.
26	
27	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
28	
29	Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 445.009, Florida
30	Statutes, is amended to read:
31	445.009 One-stop delivery system
	1

<ul> <li>boards shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Agency for Workforce Innovation for the delivery of employment services authorized by the federal Wagner Peyser Act. This memorandum of understanding must be performance based.</li> <li>(a) Unless otherwise required by federal law, at least 90 percent of the Wagner Peyser funding must go into direct customer service costs.</li> <li>(b) Employment services <u>funded by the federal</u></li> <li>Wagner-Peyser Act must be provided by through the one-stop delivery system, under the guidance of the one-stop delivery system operators. Unless otherwise required by federal law, at least 90 percent of the Wagner-Peyser funding must go into direct customer service costs. One stop delivery system</li> <li>operators shall have overall authority for directing the staff of the workforce system. Personnel matters shall remain under the ultimate authority of the Agency for Workforce Innovation.</li> <li>However, the one stop delivery system operator shall submit to the agency information concerning the job performance of agency employees who deliver employment services. The agency shall consider any such information submitted by the one stop delivery system operator in conducting performance appraisals of the employees.</li> <li>(c) The agency shall retain fiscal responsibility and accountability for the administration of funds allocated to the state under the Wagner Peyser Act funds.</li> <li>Section 2. Section 445.024, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:</li> <li>445.024 Work requirements</li> </ul>	1	(3) Beginning October 1, 2000, regional workforce
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31 445.024 Work requirements	30	amended to read:
	31	445.024 Work requirements

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1 (1) WORK ACTIVITIES. -- The Agency for Workforce 2 Innovation may develop activities under each of the following categories of work activities. The following categories of 3 4 work activities, based on federal law and regulations, may be used individually or in combination to satisfy the work 5 б requirements for a participant in the temporary cash 7 assistance program. The work activities must meet the respective federal definitions.+ 8 9 (a) Unsubsidized employment: Unsubsidized employment 10 is full time employment or part time employment that is not directly supplemented by federal or state funds. Paid 11 12 apprenticeship and cooperative education activities are 13 included in this activity. (b) Subsidized private-sector private sector 14 employment: Subsidized private sector employment is 15 employment in a private for profit enterprise or a private 16 17 not for profit enterprise which is directly supplemented by 18 federal or state funds. A subsidy may be provided in one or more of the forms listed in this paragraph. 19 20 1. Work supplementation. A work supplementation 21 subsidy diverts a participant's temporary cash assistance 2.2 under the program to the employer. The employer must pay the 23 participant wages that equal or exceed the applicable federal 2.4 minimum wage. Work supplementation may not exceed 6 months. At 25 the end of the supplementation period, the employer is 26 expected to retain the participant as a regular employee 27 without receiving a subsidy. A work supplementation agreement 2.8 may not be continued with any employer who exhibits a pattern of failing to provide participants with continued employment 29 30 after the period of work supplementation ends. 31

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1 2. On the job training. On the job training is 2 full time, paid employment in which the employer or an educational institution, in cooperation with the employer, 3 4 provides training needed for the participant to perform the skills required for the position. The employer or the 5 6 educational institution on behalf of the employer receives a 7 subsidy to offset the cost of the training provided to the 8 participant. Upon satisfactory completion of the training, the 9 employer is expected to retain the participant as a regular 10 employee without receiving a subsidy. An on the job training agreement may not be continued with any employer who exhibits 11 12 a pattern of failing to provide participants with continued 13 employment after the on the job training subsidy ends. 3. Incentive payments. Regional workforce boards may 14 provide additional incentive payments to encourage employers 15 to employ program participants. Incentive payments may include 16 17 payments to encourage the employment of hard to place 18 participants, in which case the amount of the payment shall be weighted proportionally to the extent to which the participant 19 has limitations associated with the long term receipt of 2.0 21 welfare and difficulty in sustaining employment. Incentive 2.2 payments may also include payments to encourage employers to 23 provide health care insurance benefits to current or former program participants. In establishing incentive payments, 2.4 regional workforce boards shall consider the extent of prior 25 receipt of welfare, lack of employment experience, lack of 26 27 education, lack of job skills, and other appropriate factors. 2.8 A participant who has complied with program requirements and who is approaching the time limit for receiving temporary cash 29 30 assistance may be defined as "hard to place." Incentive payments may include payments in which an initial payment is 31

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1 made to the employer upon the employment of a participant, and 2 the majority of the incentive payment is made after the 3 employer retains the participant as a full time employee for 4 at least 12 months. An incentive agreement may not be continued with any employer who exhibits a pattern of failing 5 6 to provide participants with continued employment after the 7 incentive payments cease. 8 4 Tax credits. An employer who employs a program 9 participant may qualify for enterprise zone property tax 10 credits under s. 220.182, the tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses under s. 288.106, or other federal 11 12 or state tax benefits. The regional workforce board shall 13 provide information and assistance, as appropriate, to use such credits to accomplish program goals. 14 15 Training bonus. An employer who hires a 5 participant in the welfare transition program and pays the 16 17 participant a wage that precludes the participant's 18 eligibility for temporary cash assistance may receive \$250 for each full month of employment for a period that may not exceed 19 3 months. An employer who receives a training bonus for an 2.0 21 employee may not receive a work supplementation subsidy for 2.2 the same employee. "Employment" is defined as 35 hours per 23 week at a wage of no less than minimum wage. (c) Subsidized <u>public-sector</u> <del>public sector</del> 2.4 25 employment: Subsidized public sector employment is employment by an agency of the federal, state, or local 26 government which is directly supplemented by federal or state 27 2.8 funds. The applicable subsidies provided under paragraph (b) may be used to subsidize employment in the public sector, 29 30 except that priority for subsidized employment shall be employment in the private sector. Public sector employment is 31

1 distinguished from work experience in that the participant is 2 paid wages and receives the same benefits as a nonsubsidized employee who performs similar work. Work study activities 3 administered by educational institutions are included in this 4 5 activity. б (d) On-the-job training; 7 (e)(d) Community service programs work 8 experience: Community service work experience is job 9 training experience at a supervised public or private 10 not for profit agency. A participant shall receive temporary cash assistance in the form of wages, which, when combined 11 12 with the value of food stamps awarded to the participant, is 13 proportional to the amount of time worked. A participant in the welfare transition program or the Food Stamp Employment 14 and Training program assigned to community service work 15 experience shall be deemed an employee of the state for 16 17 purposes of workers' compensation coverage and is subject to 18 the requirements of the drug free workplace program. Community service work experience may be selected as an activity for a 19 participant who needs to increase employability by improving 2.0 21 his or her interpersonal skills, job retention skills, stress 2.2 management, and job problem solving, and by learning to attain 23 a balance between job and personal responsibilities. Community service is intended to: 2.4 Assess compliance with requirements of the welfare 25 1 26 transition program before referral of the participant to 27 costly services such as career education; 28 2. Maintain work activity status while the participant 29 awaits placement into paid employment or training; 3. Fulfill a clinical practicum or internship 30 requirement related to employment; or 31

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1 4. Provide work based mentoring. 2 As used in this paragraph, the terms "community service 3 4 experience, " "community work, " and "workfare" are synonymous. 5 (f)(e) Work experience: Work experience is an 6 appropriate work activity for participants who lack 7 preparation for or experience in the workforce. It must 8 combine a job training activity in a public or private not for profit agency with education and training related to 9 10 an employment goal. To qualify as a work activity, work experience must include education and training in addition to 11 12 the time required by the work activity, and the work activity 13 must be intensively supervised and structured. Regional workforce boards shall contract for any services provided for 14 clients who are assigned to this activity and shall require 15 performance benchmarks, goals, outcomes, and time limits 16 17 designed to assure that the participant moves toward full time 18 paid employment. A participant shall receive temporary cash assistance proportional to the time worked. A participant 19 assigned to work experience is an employee of the state for 2.0 21 purposes of workers' compensation coverage and is subject to 2.2 the requirements of the drug free workplace program. 23 (q)<del>(f)</del> Job search and job readiness assistance; - Job search assistance may include supervised or unsupervised 2.4 job seeking activities. Job readiness assistance provides 25 support for job seeking activities, which may include: 26 27 1. Orientation to the world of work and basic 2.8 job seeking and job retention skills. 29 2. Instruction in completing an application for 30 employment and writing a resume. 31

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1 3. Instruction in conducting oneself during a job 2 interview, including appropriate dress. 4. Instruction in how to retain a job, plan a career, 3 4 and perform successfully in the workplace. 5 б Job readiness assistance may also include providing a 7 participant with access to an employment resource center that 8 contains job listings, telephones, facsimile machines, 9 typewriters, and word processors. Job search and job readiness 10 activities may be used in conjunction with other program activities, such as work experience, but may not be the 11 12 primary work activity for longer than the length of time 13 permitted under federal law. (h)(g) Vocational educational career education or 14 training:. Career education or training is education or 15 training designed to provide participants with the skills and 16 17 certification necessary for employment in an occupational 18 area. Career education or training may be used as a primary program activity for participants when it has been determined 19 that the individual has demonstrated compliance with other 2.0 21 phases of program participation and successful completion of 2.2 the career education or training is likely to result in 23 employment entry at a higher wage than the participant would have been likely to attain without completion of the career 2.4 education or training. Career education or training may be 25 combined with other program activities and also may be used to 26 27 upgrade skills or prepare for a higher paying occupational area for a participant who is employed. 2.8 1. Unless otherwise provided in this section, career 29 30 education shall not be used as the primary program activity for a period which exceeds 12 months. The 12 month restriction 31

1	applies to instruction in a career education program and does
2	not include remediation of basic skills, including English
3	language proficiency, if remediation is necessary to enable a
4	participant to benefit from a career education program. Any
5	necessary remediation must be completed before a participant
6	is referred to career education as the primary work activity.
7	In addition, use of career education or training shall be
8	restricted to the limitation established in federal law.
9	Career education included in a program leading to a high
10	school diploma shall not be considered career education for
11	purposes of this section.
12	2. When possible, a provider of career education or
13	training shall use funds provided by funding sources other
14	than the regional workforce board. The regional workforce
15	board may provide additional funds to a career education or
16	training provider only if payment is made pursuant to a
17	performance based contract. Under a performance based
18	contract, the provider may be partially paid when a
19	participant completes education or training, but the majority
20	of payment shall be made following the participant's
21	employment at a specific wage or job retention for a specific
22	duration. Performance based payments made under this
23	subparagraph are limited to education or training for targeted
24	occupations identified by the Workforce Estimating Conference
25	under s. 216.136, or other programs identified by Workforce
26	Florida, Inc., as beneficial to meet the needs of designated
27	groups who are hard to place. If the contract pays the full
28	cost of training, the community college or school district may
29	not report the participants for other state funding.
30	<u>(i)(h)</u> Job skills training <u>directly related to</u>
31	employment; Job skills training includes customized training

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1 designed to meet the needs of a specific employer or a 2 specific industry. Job skills training shall include literacy instruction, and may include English proficiency instruction 3 or Spanish language or other language instruction if necessary 4 5 to enable a participant to perform in a specific job or job 6 training program or if the training enhances employment 7 opportunities in the local community. A participant may be 8 required to complete an entrance assessment or test before entering into job skills training. 9 10 (j)(i) Education <u>directly related to employment;</u> services related to employment for participants 19 years of 11 12 age or younger. Education services provided under this 13 paragraph are designed to prepare a participant for employment in an occupation. The agency shall coordinate education 14 services with the school to work activities provided under s. 15 1006.02. Activities provided under this paragraph are 16 17 restricted to participants 19 years of age or younger who have 18 not completed high school or obtained a high school equivalency diploma. 19 (k) Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in 20 21 a course of study leading to a graduate equivalency diploma; 22 or 23 (j) School attendance. Attendance at a high school or 2.4 attendance at a program designed to prepare the participant to receive a high school equivalency diploma is a required 25 26 program activity for each participant 19 years of age or 27 <del>vounger who:</del> 2.8 1. Has not completed high school or obtained a high 29 school equivalency diploma; 30 2. Is a dependent child or a head of household; and 31

1 3 For whom it has not been determined that another 2 program activity is more appropriate. 3 (k) Teen parent services. Participation in medical, 4 educational, counseling, and other services that are part of a comprehensive program is a required activity for each teen 5 6 parent who participates in the welfare transition program. 7 (1) Extended education and training. Notwithstanding 8 any other provisions of this section to the contrary, the board of directors of Workforce Florida, Inc., may approve a 9 10 plan by a regional workforce board for assigning, as work requirements, educational activities that exceed or are not 11 12 included in those provided elsewhere in this section and that 13 do not comply with federal work participation requirement limitations. In order to be eligible to implement this 14 provision, a regional workforce board must continue to exceed 15 the overall federal work participation rate requirements. For 16 17 purposes of this paragraph, the board of directors of 18 Workforce Florida, Inc., may adjust the regional participation requirement based on regional caseload decline. However, this 19 adjustment is limited to no more than the adjustment produced 2.0 21 by the calculation used to generate federal adjustments to the 2.2 participation requirement due to caseload decline. 23 (m) GED preparation and literacy education. Satisfactory attendance at secondary school or in 2.4 a course of study leading to a graduate equivalency diploma, 25 if a participant has not completed secondary school or 26 27 received such a diploma. English language proficiency 2.8 training may be included as a part of the education if it is deemed the individual requires such training to complete 29 30 secondary school or to attain a graduate equivalency diploma. To calculate countable hours attributable to education, a 31

1 participant may earn study credits equal to the number of 2 actual hours spent in formal training per week, but the total 3 number of hours earned for actual hours spent in formal 4 training and studying may not exceed a one to one and one half 5 ratio for the week. Countable hours are subject to the 6 restrictions contained in 45 C.F.R. s. 261.31. 7 (1)(n) Providing child care services.--Providing child 8 care services to an individual who is participating in a 9 community service program pursuant to this section. 10 (2) WORK ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS. -- Each individual who is not otherwise exempt from work activity requirements must 11 12 participate in a work activity, except for community service 13 work experience, for the maximum number of hours allowable under federal law; however, a, provided that no participant 14 may not be required to work more than 40 hours per week or 15 16 less than the minimum number of hours required by federal law. 17 The maximum number of hours each month that a family 18 participant may be required to participate in community service or work experience programs activities is the greater 19 of: the number of hours that would result from dividing the 2.0 21 family's monthly amount for temporary cash assistance and food 2.2 stamps by the applicable federal minimum wage and then 23 dividing that result by the number of participants in the 2.4 family who participate in community service activities, or the minimum required to meet federal participation requirements. 25 26 However, in no case shall the maximum hours required per week 27 for community service or work experience may not exceed 40 2.8 hours. An applicant shall be referred for employment at the 29 time of application if the applicant is eligible to 30 participate in the welfare transition program. 31

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1 (a) A participant in a work activity may also be 2 required to enroll in and attend a course of instruction designed to increase literacy skills to a level necessary for 3 obtaining or retaining employment  $\underline{if}$ , provided that the 4 instruction plus the work activity does not require more than 5 б 40 hours per week. 7 (b) Program funds may be used, as available, to 8 support the efforts of a participant who meets the work activity requirements and who wishes to enroll in or continue 9 10 enrollment in an adult general education program or other training programs a career education program. 11 12 (3) EXEMPTION FROM WORK ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS.--The 13 following individuals are exempt from work activity requirements: 14 (a) A minor child under 16 years of age. 15 (a) (b) An individual who receives benefits under the 16 17 Supplemental Security Income program or the Social Security 18 Disability Insurance program. (b)(c) Adults who are not defined as work-eligible 19 20 individuals under federal law included in the calculation of 21 temporary cash assistance in child only cases. 22 (c)(d) A single One custodial parent of with a child 23 under 3 months of age, except that the parent may be required to attend parenting classes or other activities to better 2.4 prepare for the responsibilities of raising a child. If the 25 26 custodial parent is 19 years of age or younger and has not 27 completed high school or the equivalent, he or she may be 2.8 required to attend school or other appropriate educational activities. 29 30 (d)(e) An individual who is exempt from the time period pursuant to s. 414.105. 31

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(4) PRIORITIZATION OF WORK REQUIREMENTS. -- Regional 1 2 workforce boards shall require participation in work activities to the maximum extent possible, subject to federal 3 and state funding. If funds are projected to be insufficient 4 to allow full-time work activities by all program participants 5 6 who are required to participate in work activities, regional 7 workforce boards shall screen participants and assign priority 8 based on the following: (a) In accordance with federal requirements, at least 9 one adult in each two-parent family shall be assigned priority 10 for full-time work activities. 11 12 (b) Among single-parent families, a family that has 13 older preschool children or school-age children shall be assigned priority for work activities. 14 (c) A participant who has access to subsidized or 15 unsubsidized nonsubsidized child care may be assigned priority 16 17 for work activities. 18 (d) Priority may be assigned based on the amount of time remaining until the participant reaches the applicable 19 time limit for program participation or may be based on 20 21 requirements of a case plan. 22 23 Regional workforce boards may limit a participant's weekly work requirement to the minimum required to meet federal work 2.4 activity requirements in lieu of the level defined in 25 26 subsection (2). Regional workforce boards may develop 27 screening and prioritization procedures based on the 2.8 allocation of resources, the availability of community resources, the provision of supportive services, or the work 29 30 activity needs of the service area district. 31

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4 5 (5) USE OF CONTRACTS.--Regional workforce boards shall provide work activities, training, and other services, as appropriate, through contracts. In contracting for work activities, training, or services, the following applies:

 (a) A contract must be performance-based. Payment

6 shall be tied to performance outcomes that include factors 7 such as, but not limited to, diversion from cash assistance, 8 job entry, job entry at a target wage, job retention, and 9 connection to transition services rather than tied to 10 completion of training or education or any other phase of the 11 program participation process.

12 (b) A contract may include performance-based incentive 13 payments that may vary according to the extent to which the participant is more difficult to place. Contract payments may 14 be weighted proportionally to reflect the extent to which the 15 participant has limitations associated with the long-term 16 17 receipt of welfare and difficulty in sustaining employment. The factors may include the extent of prior receipt of 18 welfare, lack of employment experience, lack of education, 19 lack of job skills, and other factors determined appropriate 20 21 by the regional workforce board.

(c) Notwithstanding the exemption from the competitive sealed bid requirements provided in s. 287.057(5)(f) for certain contractual services, each contract awarded under this chapter must be awarded on the basis of a competitive sealed bid, except for a contract with a governmental entity as determined by the regional workforce board.

(d) Regional workforce boards may contract with commercial, charitable, or religious organizations. A contract must comply with federal requirements with respect to nondiscrimination and other requirements that safeguard the

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rights of participants. Services may be provided under 1 contract, certificate, voucher, or other form of disbursement. 2 (e) The administrative costs associated with a 3 4 contract for services provided under this section may not exceed the applicable administrative cost ceiling established 5 6 in federal law. An agency or entity that is awarded a contract 7 under this section may not charge more than 7 percent of the value of the contract for administration, unless an exception 8 is approved by the regional workforce board. A list of any 9 exceptions approved must be submitted to the board of 10 directors of Workforce Florida, Inc., for review, and the 11 board may rescind approval of the exception. 12 13 (f) Regional workforce boards may enter into contracts to provide short-term work experience for the chronically 14 unemployed as provided in this section. 15 16 (q) A tax-exempt organization under s. 501(c) of the 17 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which receives funds under this chapter must disclose receipt of federal funds on any 18 advertising, promotional, or other material in accordance with 19 federal requirements. 20 21 (6) PROTECTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS.--Each participant is 22 subject to the same health, safety, and nondiscrimination 23 standards established under federal, state, or local laws that otherwise apply to other individuals engaged in similar 2.4 25 activities who are not participants in the welfare transition 26 program. 27 (7) PROTECTION FOR CURRENT EMPLOYEES. -- In establishing 2.8 and contracting for work experience and community service 29 activities, other work experience activities, on-the-job training, subsidized employment, and work supplementation 30 under the welfare transition program, an employed worker may 31 16

1 not be displaced, either completely or partially. A 2 participant may not be assigned to an activity or employed in a position if the employer has created the vacancy or 3 terminated an existing employee without good cause in order to 4 5 fill that position with a program participant. б Section 3. Section 445.032, Florida Statutes, is 7 amended to read: 445.032 Transitional child care.--In order to assist 8 9 former welfare transition program participants and individuals who have been redirected through up-front diversion in 10 obtaining employment, continuing to be employed, and improving 11 12 their employment prospects, transitional child care is 13 available for up to 2 years: 14 (1) To After a former program participant who is no longer receiving temporary cash assistance and who is employed 15 or actively seeking employment if his or her has left the 16 17 program due to employment and whose income does not exceed 200 18 percent of the federal poverty level at any time during that 2-year period. 19 (2) To an individual who has been redirected through 20 21 up-front diversion and who is employed or actively seeking 22 employment if his or her whose income does not exceed 200 23 percent of the federal poverty level at any time during that 2.4 2-year period. Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 25 402.305, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 26 27 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.--2.8 (4) STAFF-TO-CHILDREN RATIO.--29 (b) This subsection does not apply to nonpublic schools and their integral programs as defined in s. 30 402.3025(2)(d)1. In addition, an individual participating in a 31 17

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community service program work experience activity under s. 445.024(1)(e) s. 445.024(1)(d), or a work experience activity under <u>s. 445.024(1)(f)</u> <del>s. 445.024(1)(e)</del>, at a child care facility may not be considered in calculating the staff-to-children ratio. б Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law. SENATE SUMMARY Revises certain requirements of the one-stop delivery system of employment services. Revises the definitions of work activities for participants in the temporary cash assistance program for the purpose of conforming those definitions to the federal law governing work requirements. Revises provisions specifying the circumstances under which transitional child care is available to former participants in the welfare transition program and certain other individuals. 2.4