HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 871 Family Builders Program
SPONSOR(S): Renuart
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 2258

	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1)	Health & Family Services Policy Council		Guzzo	Gormley
2)				
3)				
4)				
5)				

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill repeals ss.39.311-39.318, F.S., relating to the Family Builders program. Enacted in 1990, the Family Builders program provided family preservation services to dependent children and their families through the Department of Children and Families ("DCF"). In 1998, the Legislature directed DCF to begin the process of privatizing Florida's child welfare services, including family preservation, to community-based entities known as lead agencies. By 2005, DCF replaced the Family Builders program with community-based care and all funding for the Family Builders program was discontinued.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state government.

House Bill 871 provides an effective date of July 1, 2010.

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Creation of the Family Builders Program

In 1990, the Legislature created the Family Builders Program[1] within the Department of Children and Families ("DCF") to provide family preservation services to dependent children and their families. Pursuant to the program, DCF delivered services designed to allow dependent children to stay with their families instead of entering or remaining in out-of-home care.[2] To implement the program, DCF contracted with 28 nonprofit community agencies throughout the state to provide a set of short-term, intensive, in-home crisis intervention services to teach skills and provide support to achieve long-term changes within at-risk families.[3] The agencies provided clinical services such as comprehensive assessments, family therapy, counseling, and parenting and crisis training; as well as support services, including financial assistance, homemaker and childcare services, food, and help accessing community resources.[4]

Outsourcing of Child Protective Services

In 1998, the Legislature directed DCF to begin the process of outsourcing Florida's child welfare services, including family preservation, to community-based entities known as lead agencies.[5] The result was a redesigned state child welfare system through the gradual transition to community-based entities with more control over the design and delivery of services previously rendered by programs such as Family Builders.[6] By April 2005, DCF outsourced child protective services statewide and eliminated contracts for the Family Builders program.[7]

[1] ss. 39.311-39.318, F.S. (created by s. 66, Chapter 90-306, Laws of Florida).
[2] s. 39.311
[3] *Locally-Focused Community-Based Care Replaced the Family Builders Program*; Memorandum from the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability (May 22, 2009).
[4] *Id.* at 1.
[5] *Id. See also* s. 409.1671, F.S. (created by s. 1, Chapter 98-180, Laws of Florida).
[6] *Id.*
[7] *Id.*

Effects of the Bill

House Bill 871 repeals ss. 39.311-39.318, F.S., related to the Family Builders Program. The repeal of these statutory sections will not affect current operations at DCF or lead agencies, nor will it affect funding to existing programs.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Repealing ss. 39.311 – 39.318, F.S., relating to the Family Builders program.

Section 2: Provides an effective date of July 1, 2010.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

   None.

2. Expenditures:

   None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

   None.

2. Expenditures:

   None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not appear to require counties or municipalities to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds, reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenue in the aggregate, or reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES