

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education

[2017s00890.hms]

BILL: CS/CS/SB 890

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee; Education Committee; and Senators Bean and Montford

SUBJECT: Direct-Support Organizations

DATE: May 8, 2017

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1- 912975 (Body)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

CS/CS/SB 890 extends the repeal date for the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation (The Able Trust), which serves as the direct-support organization (DSO) of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation within the Florida Department of Education from October 1, 2017 to October 1, 2022. The bill increases transparency and oversight of the DSO by requiring the DSO to:

- Account for state and private funds separately.
- Use private funds for administrative expenses, which are limited to 15 percent of the total estimated expenditures in any calendar year.
- Publish additional information on The Able Trust's website.
- Hold a competitive solicitation process for any allocation of funds for research, advertising or consulting.

House Amendment 1 maintains provisions in CS/CS/SB 890 but modifies the repeal date for the DSO from October 1, 2017 to October 1, 2019; and adds provisions to the bill to:

- Modify s. 20.058(4), F.S., to require a contract between a Citizen Support Organization (CSO) and Direct Support Organization (DSO) to include a provision for the orderly cessation of operations and reversion to the state any state funds held in trust by the organization within 30 days after the authorizing statute for the DSO is repealed, the contract is terminated, or the DSO is dissolved.
- Revise the distribution of civil penalties collected by county courts from the Able Trust to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) of the Department of Education (DOE).
- Remove the Able Trust as the custodial agent for the motorcycle specialty license plates fees and direct funds currently received by the Able Trust to the Grants and Donations Trust Fund of the DVR within the DOE, Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living (FACIL), Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program Trust Fund, Prevent Blindness Florida, or the Blind Services Foundation of Florida.

-
- Remove the Able Trust as administrator of the James Patrick Memorial Work Incentive Personal Attendant Services and Employment Assistance Program (program) and requires the FACIL to administer the program.
 - Reduce program administrative costs from 12 percent to 10 percent of funds provided from fees for motorcycle specialty license plates and the tax collection enforcement diversion program.
 - Require the James Patrick Memorial Work Incentive Personal Attendant Services and Employment Assistance Program Oversight Council to submit a report to the Governor, Legislature, and Commissioner of Education by February 1 of each year, which summarizes the performance of the program.
 - Modify the deadline, from February 1 to December 30, for the board of directors of the DSO to submit the annual report to the Governor, Legislature, and the Commissioner of Education and specifies additional information that must be included in the report.
 - Change the title of the bill from “Florida Endowment for Vocational Rehabilitation” to “Direct-support Organizations.”