1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to children removed from caregivers; 3 amending s. 409.988, F.S.; requiring community-based 4 care lead agencies, in coordination with the local 5 managing entity, to administer a validated trauma-6 focused screening within a specified timeframe to 7 children removed from certain caregivers; providing 8 requirements for such screening and therapy, if 9 recommended; requiring such agencies to offer voluntary trauma screening and appropriate services to 10 11 children and their families under certain circumstances; amending s. 409.996, F.S.; requiring 12 13 the Department of Children and Families to require in its contracts with community-based care lead agencies 14 15 that such agencies and managing entities coordinate to 16 administer a validated trauma-focused screening within 17 a specified timeframe to children removed from certain caregivers; conforming a cross-reference; providing an 18 effective date. 19

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

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Section 1. Paragraphs (b) through (n) of subsection (1) of section 409.988, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (c) through (o), respectively, and a new paragraph

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(b) is added to that subsection to read:
 409.988 Community-based care lead agency duties; general
provisions.-

(1) DUTIES.—A lead agency:

- (b)1. Shall, in coordination with the local managing entity, administer a validated trauma-focused screening to a child removed from his or her parent, legal custodian, or caregiver to ensure that any trauma related to the child's removal is timely identified, if present, and that the child is promptly referred to appropriate trauma services, including clinical evaluation and intervention, if needed. The trauma-focused screening must occur as soon as practicable subsequent to the child's removal but no later than 14 days after the shelter hearing. The screening and therapy, if recommended, must evaluate and address the impact of the removal to the child.
- 2. Shall offer voluntary trauma screening and appropriate trauma services to a child and his or her family in the event that a shelter petition is denied and the child is returned to his or her parent, legal custodian, or caregiver.
- Section 2. Paragraphs (b) through (f) of subsection (1) of section 409.996, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (c) through (g), respectively, paragraph (b) of subsection (4) is amended, and a new paragraph (b) is added to subsection (1) of that section, to read:
 - 409.996 Duties of the Department of Children and

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Families.—The department shall contract for the delivery, administration, or management of care for children in the child protection and child welfare system. In doing so, the department retains responsibility for the quality of contracted services and programs and shall ensure that, at a minimum, services are delivered in accordance with applicable federal and state statutes and regulations and the performance standards and metrics specified in the strategic plan created under s. 20.19(1).

- (1) The department shall enter into contracts with lead agencies for the performance of the duties by the lead agencies established in s. 409.988. At a minimum, the contracts must do all of the following:
- (b) Require lead agencies and managing entities to coordinate to administer a validated trauma-focused screening to a child removed from his or her parent, legal custodian, or caregiver to ensure that any trauma related to the child's removal is timely identified, if present, and that the child is promptly referred to appropriate trauma services, including clinical evaluation and intervention, if needed, as required by s. 409.988(1)(b).

(4)

(b) The department shall collect and publish on its website, and update monthly, the information required under \underline{s} . $\underline{409.988(1)(1)}$ \underline{s} . $\underline{409.988(1)(k)}$.

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Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023. 76

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