

By the Committee on Children and Families; and Senator Kurth

300-1723-00

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to foster care; amending s.  
3           409.145, F.S.; authorizing the Department of  
4           Children and Family Services to continue  
5           providing foster care services to certain  
6           individuals who are enrolled full-time in a  
7           degree-granting program in a postsecondary  
8           educational institution; specifying  
9           circumstances under which such services shall  
10          be terminated; providing an effective date.

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

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14           Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3) of  
15          section 409.145, Florida Statutes, are amended, present  
16          paragraph (c) of that subsection is redesignated as paragraph  
17          (d), and a new paragraph (c) is added to that subsection to  
18          read:

19           409.145 Care of children.--

20           (3)(a) The department is authorized to continue to  
21          provide the services of the children's foster care program to  
22          individuals 18 to 21 years of age who are enrolled in high  
23          school, in a program leading to a high school equivalency  
24          diploma as defined in s. 229.814, or in a full-time career  
25          education program, and to continue to provide services of the  
26          children's foster care program to individuals 18 to 23 years  
27          of age who are enrolled full-time in a postsecondary  
28          educational institution granting a degree, a certificate, or  
29          an applied technology diploma, if the following requirements  
30          are met:

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1           1. The individual was committed to the legal custody  
2 of the department for placement in foster care as a dependent  
3 child;

4           2. All other resources have been thoroughly explored,  
5 and it can be clearly established that there are no  
6 alternative resources for placement; and

7           3. A written service agreement which specifies  
8 responsibilities and expectations for all parties involved has  
9 been signed by a representative of the department, the  
10 individual, and the foster parent or licensed child-caring  
11 agency providing the placement resources.

12           (b) The services of the foster care program shall  
13 continue for those individuals 18 to 21 years of age only for  
14 the period of time the individual is continuously enrolled in  
15 high school, in a program leading to a high school equivalency  
16 diploma as defined in s. 229.814, or in a full-time career  
17 education program; and shall continue for those individuals 18  
18 to 23 years of age only for the period of time the individual  
19 is continuously enrolled full-time in a postsecondary  
20 educational institution granting a degree, a certificate, or  
21 an applied technology diploma. Services shall be terminated  
22 upon completion of or withdrawal or permanent expulsion from  
23 high school, the program leading to a high school equivalency  
24 diploma, ~~or~~ the full-time career education program, or the  
25 postsecondary educational institution granting a degree, a  
26 certificate, or an applied technology diploma.

27           (c) Individuals who are 21 years of age or older with  
28 financial resources at a sufficient level to pay the tuition  
29 and fees of a postsecondary educational institution may not  
30 continue receiving foster care services under this section.  
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1           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
2 law.

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4                   STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
5                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
6                   Senate Bill 1098

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8 -       Makes technical changes to clarify that a post-secondary  
9       institution may grant not only a degree but may also  
10       grant a certificate or an applied technology diploma.  
11 -       Specifies that individuals who are 21 years of age or  
12       older with financial resources at a sufficient level to  
13       pay the tuition and fees of a post-secondary institution  
14       may not continue receiving foster care services.  
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