

By the Committees on Fiscal Policy; Children and Families; and
Senator Kurth

309-1902-00

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 appropriation;
11 providing an effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3) of
16 section 409.145, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

17 409.145 Care of children.--

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

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

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

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

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

24 Section 2. There is appropriated the recurring sum of
25 \$340,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of
26 Children and Family Services for purposes of implementing the
27 provisions of this act during Fiscal Year 2000-2001.

28 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
29 law.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
CS for SB 1098

Deletes language that specified that individuals who are 21 years of age or older with financial resources at a sufficient level to pay the tuition and fees of a post-secondary institution may not continue receiving foster care services.

Appropriates the recurring sum of \$340,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and Family Services for purposes of implementing the provisions of the act during Fiscal Year 2000-2001.