

By Representative Turnbull

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.

11  
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

13  
14           Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3) of  
15 section 409.145, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

16           409.145 Care of children.--

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

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

30  
31

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 degree-granting  
17 program in a postsecondary educational institution. Services  
18 shall be terminated upon completion of or withdrawal or  
19 permanent expulsion from high school, the program leading to a  
20 high school equivalency diploma, ~~or~~ the full-time career  
21 education program, or the degree-granting program of a  
22 postsecondary educational institution.

23           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
24 law.

25  
26           \*\*\*\*\*

27           HOUSE SUMMARY

28           Authorizes the Department of Children and Family Services  
29 to continue to provide foster care services to  
30 individuals 18 to 23 years of age who are enrolled  
31 full-time in a degree-granting program in a postsecondary  
educational institution, provided specified requirements  
are met. Specifies circumstances under which foster care  
services shall be terminated for such individuals.