

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 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 post-secondary  
25 institution granting a degree, a certificate, or an applied  
26 technology diploma, if the following 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;

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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 post-secondary  
17 institution granting a degree, a certificate, or an applied  
18 technology diploma. Services shall be terminated upon  
19 completion of or withdrawal or permanent expulsion from high  
20 school, the program leading to a high school equivalency  
21 diploma, ~~or~~ the full-time career education program, or the  
22 post-secondary institution granting a degree, a certificate,  
23 or an applied technology diploma.

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