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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.