

By Senator Cowin

11-631-00

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to foster care and related
services; providing legislative intent;
providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the Legislature has directed that foster care
and related services be privatized through contracts with
community-based providers, and

WHEREAS, the transition to a statewide system of
community-based foster care and related services is already
underway in several locations around the state, and

WHEREAS, this transition is complicated by a
significant and unprecedented increase in the number of
children entering out-of-home care, and

WHEREAS, there is a need to strengthen the level of
confidence that communities have in the state's involvement in
the emerging privatized community-based system, and

WHEREAS, foster parents are critical in meeting the
needs of abused children, regardless of whether foster care
and related services are provided by the public or private
sector, and yet find themselves increasingly frustrated in
their ability to serve effectively as foster parents, NOW,
THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. The Legislature intends to provide
direction to providers of foster care and related services
which will enhance the ability of foster parents to
effectively carry out their responsibilities in meeting the
needs of the children in their care. In addition, the

