

By the Committee on Children and Families; and Senator Lynn

300-2407-03

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to independent living
 3 transition services; amending s. 409.1451,
 4 F.S.; abolishing the Independent Living
 5 Services Transition Workgroup; deleting the
 6 report required by the Independent Living
 7 Services Transition Workgroup; establishing the
 8 Independent Living Services Workgroup;
 9 providing for the activities of the Independent
 10 Living Services Workgroup; providing for the
 11 Independent Living Services Workgroup to report
 12 to committees of the Senate and the House of
 13 Representatives; providing that property
 14 acquired on behalf of a client receiving
 15 independent living transition services is the
 16 property of the client; providing that the
 17 rules are to balance normalcy and safety for
 18 the youth; providing an effective date.

19
 20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

21
 22 Section 1. Subsection (7) of section 409.1451, Florida
 23 Statutes, is amended, present subsection (8) of that section
 24 is amended and redesignated as subsection (9), and a new
 25 subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

26 409.1451 Independent living transition services.--

27 (7) INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES ~~INTEGRATION~~
 28 WORKGROUP.--The Secretary of Children and Family Services
 29 shall establish the independent living services integration
 30 workgroup, which, at a minimum, shall include representatives
 31 from the Department of Children and Family Services, the

1 Agency for Workforce Innovation, the Department of Education,
2 the Agency for Health Care Administration, the State Youth
3 Advisory Board, Workforce Florida, Inc., and foster parents.
4 The workgroup shall assess the implementation and operation of
5 the system of independent living transition services and
6 advise the department on actions that would improve the
7 ability of the independent living transition services to meet
8 the established goals. The workgroup shall keep the department
9 informed of problems being experienced with the services,
10 barriers to the effective and efficient integration of
11 services and support across systems, and successes that the
12 system of independent living transition services has achieved.
13 The department shall consider, but is not required to
14 implement, the recommendations of the workgroup. For the
15 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 fiscal years, the workgroup shall
16 report to the appropriate substantive committees of the Senate
17 and House of Representatives on the status of the
18 implementation of the system of independent living transition
19 services; efforts to publicize the availability of aftercare
20 support services, the Road-to-Independence Scholarship
21 Program, and transitional support services; specific barriers
22 to financial aid created by the scholarship and possible
23 solutions; the success of the services; problems identified;
24 recommendations for department or legislative action; and the
25 department's implementation of the recommendations contained
26 in the Independent Living Services Integration Workgroup
27 Report dated December 31, 2002, and submitted to the
28 committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
29 This workgroup report shall be submitted by December 31, 2003,
30 and December 31, 2004, and shall be accompanied by a report
31 from the department which identifies the recommendations of

1 the workgroup and either describes the department's actions to
2 implement these recommendations or provides the department's
3 rationale for not implementing the recommendations.~~for the~~
4 ~~transition of older children in foster care to independent~~
5 ~~living. The workgroup shall recommend methods to overcome~~
6 ~~these barriers and shall ensure that the state plan for~~
7 ~~federal funding for the independent living transition services~~
8 ~~includes these recommendations. The workgroup shall report to~~
9 ~~appropriate legislative committees of the Senate and the House~~
10 ~~of Representatives by December 31, 2002. Specific issues and~~
11 ~~recommendations to be addressed by the workgroup include:~~
12 ~~(a) Enacting the Medicaid provision of the federal~~
13 ~~Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, Pub. L. No. 106-169,~~
14 ~~which allows young adults formerly in foster care to receive~~
15 ~~medical coverage up to 21 years of age.~~
16 ~~(b) Extending the age of Medicaid coverage from 21 to~~
17 ~~23 years of age for young adults formerly in foster care in~~
18 ~~order to enable such youth to complete a postsecondary~~
19 ~~education degree.~~
20 ~~(c) Encouraging the regional workforce boards to~~
21 ~~provide priority employment and support for eligible foster~~
22 ~~care participants receiving independent living transition~~
23 ~~services.~~
24 ~~(d) Facilitating transfers between schools when~~
25 ~~changes in foster care placements occur.~~
26 ~~(e) Identifying mechanisms to increase the legal~~
27 ~~authority of foster parents and staff of the department or its~~
28 ~~agent to provide for the age-appropriate care of older~~
29 ~~children in foster care, including enrolling a child in~~
30 ~~school, signing for a practice driver's license for the child~~
31 ~~under s. 322.09(4), cosigning loans and insurance for the~~

1 ~~child, signing for the child's medical treatment, and~~
2 ~~authorizing other similar activities as appropriate.~~

3 ~~(f) Transferring the allowance of spending money that~~
4 ~~is provided by the department each month directly to an older~~
5 ~~child in the program through an electronic benefit transfer~~
6 ~~program. The purpose of the transfer is to allow these~~
7 ~~children to access and manage the allowance they receive in~~
8 ~~order to learn responsibility and participate in~~
9 ~~age-appropriate life skills activities.~~

10 ~~(g) Identifying other barriers to normalcy for a child~~
11 ~~in foster care.~~

12 (8) PROPERTY ACQUIRED ON BEHALF OF CLIENTS.--Property
13 acquired on behalf of a client receiving services under this
14 section shall be the personal property of the client and is
15 not subject to the requirements of chapter 273 relating to
16 state-owned tangible personal property. Such property
17 continues to be subject to applicable federal laws.

18 (9)(8) RULEMAKING.--The department shall adopt by rule
19 procedures to administer this section, including provision for
20 the proportional reduction of scholarship awards when adequate
21 funds are not available for all applicants. These rules shall
22 balance the goals of normalcy and safety for the youth and
23 provide the caregivers with as much flexibility as possible to
24 enable the youth to participate in normal life experiences.
25 The department shall engage in appropriate planning to
26 prevent, to the extent possible, a reduction in scholarship
27 awards after issuance.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
29 law.
30
31

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
Senate Bill 1556

Provides that the process for handling property purchased through the Independent Living Transition Services program must still adhere to the applicable federal laws.

Replaces the independent living services integration workgroup with the independent living services workgroup; charges the workgroup with providing information on the issues that surface with implementation of the independent living transition services and advising the department as to strategies that would improve the ability of this effort to meet its goal; requires a report to be submitted to the substantive committees of the Senate and House on the status of the implementation of this initiative, as well as other actions of the department to address specific issues that have surfaced.