

Bill No. CS for SB 2744

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_ Barcode 782686

	<u>Senate</u>	CHAMBER ACTION	<u>House</u>
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2	04/28/2003	.	
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11	Senators Campbell and Atwater moved the following amendment:		
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13	<b>Senate Amendment (with title amendment)</b>		
14	On page 7, line 9, delete that line		
15			
16	and insert:		
17	Section 2. Effective October 1, 2003, subsections (1)		
18	and (4) and paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (5) of		
19	section 409.1451, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:		
20	409.1451 Independent living transition services.--		
21	(1) SYSTEM OF SERVICES.--		
22	(a) The Department of Children and Family Services or		
23	its agents shall administer a system of independent living		
24	transition services to enable older children in foster care		
25	and young adults who exit foster care at age 18 to make the		
26	transition to self-sufficiency as adults.		
27	(b) The goals of independent living transition		
28	services are to assist older children in foster care and young		
29	adults who were formerly in foster care to obtain life skills		
30	and education for independent living and employment, to have a		
31	quality of life appropriate for their age, and to assume		

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1 personal responsibility for becoming self-sufficient adults.

2       (c) Each district of the Department of Children and  
3 Family Services shall identify adolescent foster youth with  
4 developmental disabilities or special mental health needs. The  
5 department shall work with these foster youth to help them  
6 make the transition to self-sufficiency and shall assist the  
7 youth and young adults with reasonable accommodations for  
8 their disabilities. The department shall assist the youth with  
9 accessing support and funding from other sources, such as the  
10 department's Developmental Disabilities Office and the  
11 department's Mental Health Office. The department shall  
12 coordinate the independent living plan for a youth with the  
13 school's individual education plan for a child who is in a  
14 special education program. The department shall give special  
15 attention to 17-year-old foster children residing at  
16 residential treatment facilities, therapeutic foster homes, or  
17 other mental health placements who face a particularly  
18 difficult transition to living as adults in the community.

19       ~~(d)~~(c) State funds for foster care or federal funds  
20 shall be used to establish a continuum of services for  
21 eligible children in foster care and eligible young adults who  
22 were formerly in foster care which accomplish the goals for  
23 the independent living transition services and provide the  
24 service components for services for foster children, as  
25 provided in subsection (3), and services for young adults who  
26 were formerly in foster care, as provided in subsection (5).

27       ~~(e)~~(d) For children in foster care, independent living  
28 transition services are not an alternative to adoption.  
29 Independent living transition services may occur concurrently  
30 with continued efforts to locate and achieve placement in  
31 adoptive families for older children in foster care.

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1           (4) PARTICIPATION IN LIFE SKILLS ACTIVITIES.--In order  
2 to assist older children in foster care, ages 13 to 18 years  
3 of age, and former foster youth with disabilities, ages 18 to  
4 23 years, with the transition to independent living as adults,  
5 the program must provide them with opportunities to  
6 participate in and learn from life skills activities in their  
7 foster families and communities which are reasonable and  
8 appropriate for their age. Such activities may include, but  
9 are not limited to, managing money earned from a job, taking  
10 driver's education, and participating in after-school or  
11 extracurricular activities. To support these opportunities for  
12 participation in age-appropriate life skills activities, the  
13 department may:

14           (a) Develop, with children in the program and their  
15 foster parents, a list of age-appropriate activities and  
16 responsibilities to be presented to all children involved in  
17 independent living transition services and their foster  
18 parents.

19           (b) Provide training for staff and foster parents  
20 which addresses issues of older children in foster care and  
21 the transition to adulthood, including supporting education  
22 and employment and providing opportunities to participate in  
23 appropriate daily activities.

24           (c) Develop procedures to maximize the authority of  
25 foster parents to approve participation in age-appropriate  
26 activities of children in their care.

27           (d) Provide opportunities for older children in foster  
28 care to interact with mentors.

29           (e) Develop and implement procedures for older  
30 children to directly access and manage the personal allowance  
31 they receive from the department in order to learn

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1 responsibility and participate in age-appropriate life skills  
2 activities to the extent feasible.

3 (5) PROGRAM COMPONENT OF SERVICES FOR YOUNG ADULTS  
4 FORMERLY IN FOSTER CARE.--Based on the availability of funds,  
5 the department shall provide or arrange for the following  
6 services to young adults formerly in foster care who meet the  
7 prescribed conditions and are determined eligible by the  
8 department. The categories of services available to assist a  
9 young adult formerly in foster care to achieve independence  
10 are:

11 (b) Road-to-Independence Scholarship Program.--

12 1. The Road-to-Independence Scholarship Program is  
13 intended to help eligible students who are former foster  
14 children in this state to receive the educational and  
15 vocational training needed to achieve independence. The amount  
16 of the award shall equal the earnings that the student would  
17 have been eligible to earn working a 40-hour-a-week federal  
18 minimum wage job, after considering other grants and  
19 scholarships that are in excess of the educational  
20 institutions' fees and costs, and contingent upon available  
21 funds. Students eligible for the Road-to-Independence  
22 Scholarship Program may also be eligible for educational fee  
23 waivers for workforce development postsecondary programs,  
24 community colleges, and universities, pursuant to s.  
25 1009.25(2)(c).

26 2. A young adult 18 to 23 ~~21~~ years of age is eligible  
27 for the initial award, and ~~a young adult under 23 years of age~~  
28 ~~is eligible~~ for renewal awards, if he or she:

29 a. Is a dependent child, pursuant to chapter 39, and  
30 has lived ~~is living~~ in licensed foster care or in subsidized  
31 independent living within 6 months ~~at the time~~ of his or her

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1 18th birthday;

2           b. Has spent at least 6 months living in foster care  
3 before reaching his or her 18th birthday;

4           c. Is a resident of this state as defined in s.  
5 1009.40; and

6           d. Meets one of the following qualifications:

7           (I) Has earned a standard high school diploma or its  
8 equivalent as described in s. 1003.425 or s. 1003.43, and has  
9 been admitted for full-time enrollment in an eligible  
10 postsecondary education institution as defined in s. 1009.533;

11           (II) Is enrolled full time in an accredited high  
12 school, is within 2 years of graduation, and has maintained a  
13 grade point average of at least 2.0 on a scale of 4.0 for the  
14 two semesters preceding the date of his or her 18th birthday  
15 or, in the case of a student in a special education program in  
16 an accredited high school, has met the minimum grade point  
17 average required by that program to graduate; or

18           (III) Is enrolled full time in an accredited adult  
19 education program or high school equivalency diploma program  
20 designed to provide the student with a high school diploma or  
21 its equivalent, is making satisfactory progress in that  
22 program as certified by the program, and is within 2 years of  
23 attaining a high school diploma or its equivalent graduation.

24           3.a. The department must advertise the availability of  
25 the program and must ensure that the children and young adults  
26 leaving foster care, foster parents, or family services  
27 counselors are informed of the availability of the program and  
28 the application procedures.

29           b. A young adult must apply for the initial award  
30 during the 6 months immediately preceding his or her 18th  
31 birthday. A young adult who fails to make an initial

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1 application, but who otherwise meets the criteria for an  
2 initial award, may make one application for the initial award  
3 if such application is made before the young adult's 21st  
4 birthday.

5 c. If funding for the program is available, the  
6 department shall issue awards from the scholarship program for  
7 each young adult who meets all the requirements of the  
8 program.

9 d. An award shall be issued at the time the eligible  
10 student reaches 18 years of age.

11 e. If the award recipient transfers from one eligible  
12 institution to another and continues to meet eligibility  
13 requirements, the award must be transferred with the  
14 recipient.

15 f. Scholarship funds awarded to any eligible young  
16 adult under this program are in addition to any other services  
17 provided to the young adult by the department through its  
18 independent living transition services.

19 g. The department shall provide information concerning  
20 young adults receiving the Road-to-Independence Scholarship to  
21 the Department of Education for inclusion in the student  
22 financial assistance database, as provided in s. 1009.94.

23 h. Scholarship funds shall be terminated when the  
24 young adult has attained a bachelor of arts or bachelor of  
25 science degree, or equivalent undergraduate degree, or reaches  
26 23 years of age, whichever occurs earlier.

27 i. The department shall evaluate and renew each award  
28 annually during the 90-day period before the young adult's  
29 birthday. In order to be eligible for a renewal award for the  
30 subsequent year, the young adult must:

31 (I) Complete at least 12 semester hours or the

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1 equivalent in the last academic year in which the young adult  
2 earned a scholarship, except for a young adult who meets the  
3 requirements of s. 1009.41.

4 (II) Maintain the cumulative grade point average  
5 required by the scholarship program, except that, if the young  
6 adult's grades are insufficient to renew the scholarship at  
7 any time during the eligibility period, the young adult may  
8 restore eligibility by improving the grade point average to  
9 the required level.

10 j. Scholarship funds may be terminated during the  
11 interim between an award and the evaluation for a renewal  
12 award if the department determines that the award recipient is  
13 no longer enrolled in an educational institution as defined in  
14 sub-subparagraph 2.d., or is no longer a state resident. The  
15 department shall notify a student who is terminated and inform  
16 the student of his or her right to appeal.

17 k. An award recipient who does not qualify for a  
18 renewal award or who chooses not to renew the award may  
19 subsequently apply for reinstatement. An application for  
20 reinstatement must be made before the young adult reaches 23  
21 years of age, and a student may not apply for reinstatement  
22 more than once. In order to be eligible for reinstatement, the  
23 young adult must meet the eligibility criteria and the  
24 criteria for award renewal for the scholarship program.

25 4. A young adult who is eligible to receive a  
26 Road-to-Independence Scholarship may, in lieu of the  
27 scholarship award, request to receive independent living  
28 services, including case management, in a foster home or  
29 residential group care placement. The costs shall not exceed  
30 the amount of the scholarship award.

31 ~~1. A young adult receiving continued services of the~~

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1 ~~foster care program under former s. 409.145(3) must transfer~~  
2 ~~to the scholarship program by July 1, 2003.~~

3 (c) Transitional support services.--

4 1. In addition to any services provided through after  
5 care support or the Road-to-Independence Scholarship, a young  
6 adult formerly in foster care, may receive other appropriate  
7 short-term services, which may include financial, housing,  
8 counseling, employment, education and other services, if the  
9 young adult demonstrates that the services are critical to the  
10 young adult's own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and to  
11 develop a personal support system.

12 2. A young adult formerly in foster care is eligible  
13 to apply for transitional support services if he or she is 18  
14 to 23 years of age, was a dependent child pursuant to chapter  
15 39, was living in licensed foster care or in subsidized  
16 independent living within 6 months ~~at the time~~ of his or her  
17 18th birthday, and had spent at least 6 months living in  
18 foster care before that date.

19 3. If at any time the services are no longer critical  
20 to the young adult's own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency  
21 and to develop a personal support system, they shall be  
22 terminated.

23 Section 3. Except as otherwise expressly provided in  
24 this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

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26

27 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

28 And the title is amended as follows:

29 On page 1, lines 2 and 3, delete those lines

30

31 and insert:



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1 An act relating to children's services;  
2 amending s. 409.1451, F.S.; requiring each  
3 district of the Department of Children and  
4 Family Services to identify adolescent foster  
5 children with developmental disabilities or  
6 special mental health needs; requiring the  
7 program to provide former foster youth having  
8 disabilities with activities to learn life  
9 skills; revising eligibility requirements for  
10 participation in the Road-to-Independence  
11 Scholarship Program and transitional support  
12 services; providing for young adults to receive  
13 independent living services in lieu of a  
14 Road-to-Independence Scholarship; creating s.  
15 39.0016, F.S.;

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