

By Senator Bennett

21-651-03

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to the licensure of family  
foster homes; amending s. 409.175, F.S.;  
revising requirements for an assessment that  
must be completed before additional children  
are placed in a home; requiring that the  
assessment be conducted by a certified family  
counselor; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 409.175, Florida  
Statutes, is amended to read:

409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential  
child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies.--

(3)(a) The total number of children placed in each  
family foster home shall be based on the recommendation of the  
department, or the community-based care lead agency where one  
is providing foster care and related services, based on the  
needs of each child in care, the ability of the foster family  
to meet the individual needs of each child, including any  
adoptive or biological children living in the home, the amount  
of safe physical plant space, the ratio of active and  
appropriate adult supervision, and the background, experience,  
and skill of the family foster parents.

(b) If the total number of children in a family foster  
home will exceed five, including the family's own children, an  
~~a comprehensive behavioral health~~ assessment by a certified  
family counselor ~~of each child to be placed in the home~~ must  
be completed prior to placement of any additional children in  
the home. The ~~comprehensive behavioral health~~ assessment must

1 ~~comply with Medicaid rules and regulations, assess and~~  
2 document the mental, physical, and psychosocial needs of the  
3 child, and recommend the maximum number of children in a  
4 family foster home that will allow the child's needs to be  
5 met.

6 (c) For any licensed family foster home, the  
7 appropriateness of the number of children in the home must be  
8 reassessed annually as part of the relicensure process. For a  
9 home with more than five children, if it is determined by the  
10 licensure study at the time of relicensure that the total  
11 number of children in the home is appropriate and that there  
12 have been no substantive licensure violations and no  
13 indications of child maltreatment or child-on-child sexual  
14 abuse within the past 12 months, the relicensure of the home  
15 shall not be denied based on the total number of children in  
16 the home.

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
18 law.

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21 SENATE SUMMARY

22 Revises the requirements for placing additional children  
23 in a family foster home if there will be more than five  
24 children in that home. Requires a certified family  
counselor to conduct an assessment before additional  
children are placed in the home.

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