By the Committee on Children and Families; and Senators Wilson and Bullard

586-2262-05

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to independent living;
3	directing the Department of Children and Family
4	Services to create a pilot program in
5	Miami-Dade County; specifying eligibility;
6	limiting enrollment; providing elements of the
7	program; requiring a young adult to notify the
8	court of a decision to participate in the pilot
9	program; identifying a cohort group for the
10	purposes of comparing results; directing the
11	department to prepare a report to the
12	Legislature; providing for expiration of the
13	program; providing an effective date.
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15	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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17	Section 1. Optional Continued Foster Care to Age 21
18	Pilot Program
19	(1) The Department of Children and Family Services is
20	directed to develop an optional continued foster care pilot
21	program in Miami-Dade county. A young adult who is not
22	eligible for the Road-to-Independence Scholarship may choose
23	to participate in this pilot program. The department may
24	accept no more than 100 former foster youth who are not
25	eligible to receive the Road-to-Independence Scholarship into
26	the pilot program. Any young adult who was formerly in foster
27	care and who chooses to participate in this program will
28	continue to receive all foster care services, remain under
29	continued court jurisdiction, and remain in their current
30	foster or group home placement or another licensed foster home
31	arranged by the department until he or she leaves the pilot

1	program or until he or she becomes 21 years of age, whichever
2	comes first.
3	(2) A young adult who elects to participate in the
4	pilot program must notify the court at the last judicial
5	review hearing before he or she becomes 18 years of age. The
6	department must use the independent living assessment tool as
7	defined in section 409.1451(4)(b)4., Florida Statutes, to
8	assess each youth no later than one month after he or she
9	becomes 17 years of age and again upon the young adult's exit
10	from the pilot program or one month before he or she becomes
11	21 years of age, whichever comes first.
12	(3) The department shall identify a cohort of 100
13	former foster youth who were not eligible for the
14	Road-to-Independence Scholarship and who live in a county
15	other than Miami-Dade County. This cohort shall be compared to
16	the participants of the pilot program by using the same
17	independent living assessment tool.
18	(4) The department must prepare and present a report
19	to the Legislature on the findings of the pilot program no
20	later than December 1, 2008. The report must include an
21	analysis, including a fiscal analysis, and a recommendation of
22	the benefits and drawbacks of duplicating the pilot program in
23	the entire state.
24	Section 2. This act shall expire on July 1, 2009.
25	Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.
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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR Senate Bill 220	
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4	Removes the provisions amending s. 409.1451, F.S.
5	Removes statewide expansion of services to young adults not eligible for the Road-to-Independence Scholarship.
6 Creates an optional continued foster care pilot program in	Creates an optional continued foster care pilot program in
•	7 Miami-Dade County and provides for the conditions, eligibility, elements and duration of the pilot.
Requires the department to identify a cohort of 100 former	Requires the department to identify a cohort of 100 former
10	Scholarship and who do not live in Miami-Dade County to
11	Requires the department to submit a report to the Legislature
12	on the findings of the pilot program no later than December 1, 2008.
13	Provides for repeal of this act.
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