

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to transition services for young adults in  
3           foster care; amending s. 409.1451, F.S.; revising duties  
4           of the Department of Children and Family Services  
5           regarding independent living transition services;  
6           including additional parties in the review of a child's  
7           academic performance; requiring the department or a  
8           community-based care lead agency under contract with the  
9           department to develop a plan for delivery of such  
10          services; requiring additional aftercare support services;  
11          requiring certain funds awarded as part of the Road-to-  
12          Independence Program to be used in accordance with  
13          specified federal regulations; providing additional  
14          qualifications to receive an award; providing procedures  
15          for the payment of awards; requiring collaboration between  
16          certain parties in the development of an agreement  
17          regarding the provision of transitional services;  
18          requiring a community-based care lead agency to develop a  
19          plan for purchase and delivery of such services and  
20          requiring department approval prior to implementation;  
21          requiring a report to the Legislature; providing that  
22          funding for aftercare and transitional support services be  
23          determined based on availability of funds; permitting the  
24          Independent Living Advisory Council to have access to  
25          certain data held by the department and certain agencies;  
26          authorizing the department to enter into certain  
27          contracts; providing limitations on funds awarded;  
28          amending s. 409.903, F.S.; providing eligibility criteria

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29 for young adults formerly in foster care to receive  
30 certain services; requiring the department to provide  
31 notice to the Agency for Health Care Administration;  
32 requiring the agency to make certain health care records  
33 available in electronic format; amending ss. 39.013,  
34 39.701, and 1009.25, F.S.; conforming references to  
35 changes made by the act; providing an appropriation;  
36 providing an effective date.

37  
38 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

39  
40 Section 1. Section 409.1451, Florida Statutes, is amended  
41 to read:

42 409.1451 Independent living transition services.--

43 (1) SYSTEM OF SERVICES.--

44 (a) The Department of Children and Family Services, its  
45 agents, or community-based providers operating pursuant to s.  
46 409.1671 shall administer a system of independent living  
47 transition services to enable older children in foster care and  
48 young adults who exit foster care at age 18 to make the  
49 transition to self-sufficiency as adults.

50 (b) The goals of independent living transition services  
51 are to assist older children in foster care and young adults who  
52 were formerly in foster care to obtain life skills and education  
53 for independent living and employment, to have a quality of life  
54 appropriate for their age, and to assume personal responsibility  
55 for becoming self-sufficient adults.

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56 (c) State funds for foster care or federal funds shall be  
57 used to establish a continuum of services for eligible children  
58 in foster care and eligible young adults who were formerly in  
59 foster care which accomplish the goals for the system of  
60 independent living transition services by providing services for  
61 foster children, pursuant to subsection (4), and services for  
62 young adults who were formerly in foster care, pursuant to  
63 subsection (5).

64 (d) For children in foster care, independent living  
65 transition services are not an alternative to adoption.  
66 Independent living transition services may occur concurrently  
67 with continued efforts to locate and achieve placement in  
68 adoptive families for older children in foster care.

69 (2) ELIGIBILITY.--

70 (a) The department shall serve children who have reached  
71 13 years of age but are not yet 18 years of age and who are in  
72 foster care by providing services pursuant to subsection (4).  
73 Children to be served must meet the eligibility requirements set  
74 forth for specific services as provided in this section.

75 (b) The department shall serve young adults who have  
76 reached 18 years of age or were placed with a court-approved  
77 nonrelative or guardian after reaching 16 years of age and have  
78 spent a minimum of 6 months in foster care ~~but are not yet 23~~  
79 ~~years of age and who were in foster care when they turned 18~~  
80 ~~years of age~~ by providing services pursuant to subsection (5).  
81 Young adults are not entitled to be served but must meet the  
82 eligibility requirements set forth for specific services in this  
83 section.

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84 (3) PREPARATION FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING.--

85 (a) It is the intent of the Legislature for the Department  
86 of Children and Family Services to assist older children in  
87 foster care and young adults who exit foster care at age 18 in  
88 making the transition to independent living and self-sufficiency  
89 as adults. The department shall provide such children and young  
90 adults with opportunities to participate in life skills  
91 activities in their foster families and communities which are  
92 reasonable and appropriate for their respective ages or for any  
93 special needs they may have, and shall provide them with  
94 services to build life ~~the~~ skills and increase their ability to  
95 live independently and become self-sufficient. To support the  
96 provision of opportunities for participation in age-appropriate  
97 life skills activities, the department shall:

98 1. Develop a list of age-appropriate activities and  
99 responsibilities to be offered to all children involved in  
100 independent living transition services and their foster parents.

101 2. Provide training for staff and foster parents to  
102 address the issues of older children in foster care in  
103 transitioning to adulthood, which shall include information on  
104 high school completion, grant applications, vocational school  
105 opportunities, supporting education and employment  
106 opportunities, and ~~providing~~ opportunities to participate in  
107 appropriate daily activities.

108 3. Develop procedures to maximize the authority of foster  
109 parents or caregivers to approve participation in age-  
110 appropriate activities of children in their care. The age-  
111 appropriate activities and the authority of the foster parent or

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112 caregiver shall be developed into a written plan that the foster  
113 parent or caregiver, the child, and the case manager all develop  
114 together, sign, and follow. This plan must include specific  
115 goals and objectives and be reviewed and updated no less than  
116 quarterly.

117 4. Provide opportunities for older children in foster care  
118 to interact with mentors.

119 5. Develop and implement procedures similar to those in  
120 sub-subparagraph (5) (b) 5.1. for older children to directly  
121 access and manage the personal allowance they receive from the  
122 department in order to learn responsibility and participate in  
123 age-appropriate life skills activities to the extent feasible.

124 6. Make a good faith effort to fully explain, prior to  
125 execution of any signature, if required, any document, report,  
126 form, or other record, whether written or electronic, presented  
127 to a child or young adult pursuant to this chapter and allow for  
128 the recipient to ask any appropriate questions necessary to  
129 fully understand the document. It shall be the responsibility of  
130 the person presenting the document to the child or young adult  
131 to comply with this subparagraph.

132 (b) It is further the intent of the Legislature that each  
133 child in foster care, his or her foster parents, if applicable,  
134 and the department or community-based provider set early  
135 achievement and career goals for the child's postsecondary  
136 educational and work experience. The department and community-  
137 based providers shall implement the model set forth in this  
138 paragraph to help ensure that children in foster care are ready  
139 for postsecondary education and the workplace.

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140           1. For children in foster care who have reached 13 years  
141 of age and are entering the 9th grade, their foster parents, and  
142 the department or community-based provider shall be active  
143 participants in planning and executing an educational and career  
144 path ~~choosing a post-high school goal~~ based upon both the  
145 abilities and interests of each child. The path shall be  
146 reviewed no less than annually and shall include a review of the  
147 child's academic improvement plan pursuant to s. 1008.25,  
148 individual educational plan, if applicable, and report card or  
149 student portfolio and ~~goal~~ shall accommodate the needs of  
150 children served in exceptional education programs to the extent  
151 appropriate for each individual. Such children may continue to  
152 follow the courses outlined in the district school board student  
153 progression plan. Children in foster care, with the assistance  
154 of their foster parents, and the department or community-based  
155 provider shall choose one of the following postsecondary goals:  
156           a. Attending a 4-year college or university, a community  
157 college plus university, or a military academy;  
158           b. Receiving a 2-year postsecondary degree;  
159           c. Attaining a postsecondary career and technical  
160 certificate or credential; or  
161           d. Beginning immediate employment, including  
162 apprenticeship, after completion of a high school diploma or its  
163 equivalent, or enlisting in the military.  
164           2. In order to assist the child in foster care in  
165 achieving his or her chosen goal, the department or community-  
166 based provider shall, with the participation of the child and  
167 foster parents, identify:

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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- 168           a. The core courses in the child's secondary school  
169 necessary to qualify for a chosen goal.
- 170           b. Any elective courses which would provide additional  
171 help in reaching a chosen goal.
- 172           c. The grade point requirement and any additional  
173 information necessary to achieve a specific goal.
- 174           d. A teacher, other school staff member, employee of the  
175 department or community-based care provider, or community  
176 volunteer who would be willing to work with the child as an  
177 academic advocate or mentor if foster parent involvement is  
178 insufficient or unavailable.
- 179           3. In order to complement educational goals, the  
180 department and community-based providers are encouraged to form  
181 partnerships with the business community to support internships,  
182 apprenticeships, or other work-related opportunities.
- 183           4. The department and community-based providers shall  
184 ensure that children in foster care and their foster parents are  
185 made aware of the postsecondary goals available and shall assist  
186 in identifying the coursework necessary to enable the child to  
187 reach the chosen goal.
- 188           (c) All children in foster care and young adults formerly  
189 in foster care are encouraged to take part in learning  
190 opportunities that result from participation in community  
191 service activities.
- 192           (d) Children in foster care and young adults formerly in  
193 foster care shall be provided with the opportunity to change  
194 from one postsecondary goal to another, and each postsecondary  
195 goal shall allow for changes in each individual's needs and

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196 preferences. Any change, particularly a change that will result  
197 in additional time required to achieve a goal, shall be made  
198 with the guidance and assistance of the department or community-  
199 based provider.

200 (4) SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.--The department  
201 shall provide the following transition to independence services  
202 to children in foster care who meet prescribed conditions and  
203 are determined eligible by the department. The service  
204 categories available to children in foster care which facilitate  
205 successful transition into adulthood are:

206 (a) Preindependent living services.--

207 1. Preindependent living services include, but are not  
208 limited to, life skills training, educational field trips, and  
209 conferences. The specific services to be provided to a child  
210 shall be determined using a preindependent living assessment.

211 2. A child who has reached 13 years of age but is not yet  
212 15 years of age who is in foster care is eligible for such  
213 services.

214 3. The department shall conduct an annual staffing for  
215 each child who has reached 13 years of age but is not yet 15  
216 years of age to ensure that the preindependent living training  
217 and services to be provided as determined by the preindependent  
218 living assessment are being received and to evaluate the  
219 progress of the child in developing the needed independent  
220 living skills.

221 4. At the first annual staffing that occurs following a  
222 child's 14th birthday, and at each subsequent staffing, the  
223 department, the child, and, to the greatest extent possible, his



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224 or her foster parent or caregiver shall review the child's  
225 academic improvement plan pursuant to s. 1008.25, individual  
226 educational plan, if applicable, and report card or student  
227 portfolio and shall provide to each child detailed personalized  
228 information on services provided by the Road-to-Independence  
229 ~~Scholarship~~ Program, including requirements for eligibility; on  
230 other grants, scholarships, and waivers that are available and  
231 should be sought by the child with assistance from the  
232 department, including, but not limited to, the Bright Futures  
233 Scholarship Program, as provided in ss. 1009.53-1009.538; on  
234 application deadlines; and on grade requirements for such  
235 programs.

236 5. Information related to both the preindependent living  
237 assessment and all staffings, which shall be reduced to writing  
238 and signed by the child participant, shall be included as a part  
239 of the written report required to be provided to the court at  
240 each judicial review held pursuant to s. 39.701.

241 (b) Life skills services.--

242 1. Life skills services may include, but are not limited  
243 to, independent living skills training, including training to  
244 develop banking and budgeting skills, interviewing skills,  
245 parenting skills, and time management or organizational skills,  
246 educational support, employment training, and counseling.  
247 Children receiving these services should also be provided with  
248 information related to social security insurance benefits and  
249 public assistance. The specific services to be provided to a  
250 child shall be determined using an independent life skills  
251 assessment.

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252           2. A child who has reached 15 years of age but is not yet  
253 18 years of age who is in foster care is eligible for such  
254 services.

255           3. The department shall conduct a staffing at least once  
256 every 6 months for each child who has reached 15 years of age  
257 but is not yet 18 years of age to ensure that the appropriate  
258 independent living training and services as determined by the  
259 independent life skills assessment are being received and to  
260 evaluate the progress of the child in developing the needed  
261 independent living skills.

262           4. The department shall provide to each child in foster  
263 care during the calendar month following the child's 17th  
264 birthday an independent living assessment to determine the  
265 child's skills and abilities to live independently and become  
266 self-sufficient. Based on the results of the independent living  
267 assessment, services and training shall be provided in order for  
268 the child to develop the necessary skills and abilities prior to  
269 the child's 18th birthday.

270           5. Information related to both the independent life skills  
271 assessment and all staffings, which shall be reduced to writing  
272 and signed by the child participant, shall be included as a part  
273 of the written report required to be provided to the court at  
274 each judicial review held pursuant to s. 39.701.

275           (c) Subsidized independent living services.--

276           1. Subsidized independent living services are living  
277 arrangements that allow the child to live independently of the  
278 daily care and supervision of an adult in a setting that is not  
279 required to be licensed under s. 409.175.

280           2. A child who has reached 16 years of age but is not yet  
281 18 years of age is eligible for such services if he or she:

282           a. Is adjudicated dependent under chapter 39; has been  
283 placed in licensed out-of-home care for at least 6 months prior  
284 to entering subsidized independent living; and has a permanency  
285 goal of adoption, independent living, or long-term licensed  
286 care; and

287           b. Is able to demonstrate independent living skills, as  
288 determined by the department, using established procedures and  
289 assessments.

290           3. Independent living arrangements established for a child  
291 must be part of an overall plan leading to the total  
292 independence of the child from the department's supervision. The  
293 plan must include, but need not be limited to, a description of  
294 the skills of the child and a plan for learning additional  
295 identified skills; the behavior that the child has exhibited  
296 which indicates an ability to be responsible and a plan for  
297 developing additional responsibilities, as appropriate; a plan  
298 for future educational, vocational, and training skills; present  
299 financial and budgeting capabilities and a plan for improving  
300 resources and ability; a description of the proposed residence;  
301 documentation that the child understands the specific  
302 consequences of his or her conduct in the independent living  
303 program; documentation of proposed services to be provided by  
304 the department and other agencies, including the type of service  
305 and the nature and frequency of contact; and a plan for  
306 maintaining or developing relationships with the family, other  
307 adults, friends, and the community, as appropriate.

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308           4. Subsidy payments in an amount established by the  
309 department may be made directly to a child under the direct  
310 supervision of a caseworker or other responsible adult approved  
311 by the department.

312           (5) SERVICES FOR YOUNG ADULTS FORMERLY IN FOSTER CARE.--It  
313 is the intent of the Legislature that assistance be provided so  
314 that every young adult who exits foster care at age 18 has the  
315 opportunity to obtain housing, finish high school, attend  
316 postsecondary or vocational training, and obtain the skills  
317 necessary to find a job or begin a career as he or she makes the  
318 transition to complete independence. Aftercare support services,  
319 the Road-to-Independence Program, and transitional support  
320 services are established to accomplish this intent to the  
321 fullest degree possible. Based on the availability of funds, the  
322 department shall provide or arrange for the following services  
323 to young adults formerly in foster care who meet the prescribed  
324 conditions and are determined eligible by the department. The  
325 department, or a community-based care lead agency when the  
326 agency is under contract with the department to provide the  
327 services described under this subsection, shall develop a plan  
328 to implement those services. A plan shall be developed for each  
329 community-based care service area in the state. An approved plan  
330 shall be delivered to the Independent Living Services Advisory  
331 Council within 10 business days after approval. Each plan shall  
332 include the number of young adults to be served each month of  
333 the fiscal year and specify the number of young adults who will  
334 reach 18 years of age who will be eligible for the plan and the  
335 number of young adults who will reach 23 years of age and will

336 be ineligible for the plan or who are otherwise ineligible  
 337 during each month of the fiscal year; staffing requirements and  
 338 all related costs to administer the services and program;  
 339 expenditures to or on behalf of the eligible recipients; costs  
 340 of services provided to young adults through an approved plan  
 341 for housing, transportation, and employment; reconciliation of  
 342 these expenses and any additional related costs with the funds  
 343 allocated for these services; and an explanation of and a plan  
 344 to resolve any shortages or surpluses in order to end the fiscal  
 345 year with a balanced budget. The categories of services  
 346 available to assist a young adult formerly in foster care to  
 347 achieve independence are:

348 (a) Aftercare support services.--

349 1. Aftercare support services are available to assist  
 350 young adults who were formerly in foster care in their efforts  
 351 to continue to develop the skills and abilities necessary for  
 352 independent living. The aftercare support services available  
 353 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 354 a. Mentoring and tutoring.
- 355 b. Mental health services and substance abuse counseling.
- 356 c. Life skills classes, including credit management and  
 357 preventive health activities.
- 358 d. Parenting classes.
- 359 e. Job and career skills training.
- 360 f. Counselor consultations.
- 361 g. Temporary financial assistance.
- 362 h. Banking and budgeting skills.

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364 The specific services to be provided under this subparagraph  
365 shall be determined by an aftercare services assessment and may  
366 be provided by the department or through referrals in the  
367 community. A young adult who opens a bank account at a financial  
368 institution in this state satisfies the requirements of sub-  
369 subparagraph h. if, when opening that account, he or she  
370 received instructions on how to maintain that account, including  
371 the fee structure of that institution, and he or she has  
372 established direct deposit or a written waiver pursuant to sub-  
373 subparagraph (b)5.1.

374 2. Temporary assistance provided to prevent homelessness  
375 shall be provided as expeditiously as possible and is limited to  
376 funds available ~~within the limitations defined by the~~  
377 ~~department.~~

378 ~~3.2.~~ A young adult who has reached 18 years of age but is  
379 not yet 23 years of age who leaves foster care at 18 years of  
380 age but who requests services prior to reaching 23 years of age  
381 is eligible for such services.

382 (b) Road-to-Independence ~~Scholarship~~ Program.--Funds  
383 awarded as part of the Road-to-Independence Program under the  
384 John H. Chaffee Foster Care Independence Program shall be used  
385 in accordance with the federal regulations found in 42 U.S.C. s.  
386 677(i) for young adults formerly in foster care.

387 1. The Road-to-Independence ~~Scholarship~~ Program is  
388 intended to help eligible students who are former foster  
389 children in this state to receive the educational and vocational  
390 training needed to achieve independence. The amount of the award  
391 shall be based on the living and educational needs of the young

392 ~~adult and may be up to, but may not exceed, the amount of~~  
 393 ~~earnings that the student would have been eligible to earn~~  
 394 ~~working a 40-hour-a-week federal minimum wage job.~~

395 2. A child in foster care or a young adult who has a high  
 396 school diploma or its equivalent ~~reached 18 years of age~~ but is  
 397 not yet 21 years of age is eligible for the initial award, and a  
 398 young adult participating in the program on his or her 21st  
 399 birthday may remain eligible for renewal awards until he or she  
 400 reaches under 23 years of age ~~is eligible for renewal awards~~, if  
 401 he or she:

402 a. Was a dependent child, under chapter 39, and was living  
 403 in licensed foster care or in subsidized independent living at  
 404 the time of his or her 18th birthday or is currently in licensed  
 405 foster care or subsidized independent living, was adopted from  
 406 foster care after reaching 16 years of age, or, after spending  
 407 at least 6 months in the custody of the department after  
 408 reaching 16 years of age, was placed in a guardianship by the  
 409 court;

410 b. Spent at least 6 months living in foster care before  
 411 reaching his or her 18th birthday or before obtaining his or her  
 412 high school diploma or its equivalent;

413 c. Is a resident of this state as defined in s. 1009.40;  
 414 and

415 ~~d. Meets one of the following qualifications:~~

416 d.(1) Has earned a standard high school diploma or its  
 417 equivalent as described in s. 1003.43 or s. 1003.435, or has  
 418 earned a special diploma or special certificate of completion as  
 419 described in s. 1003.438, and has been admitted for part-time or

420 full-time enrollment in an eligible postsecondary education  
 421 institution as defined in s. 1009.533.~~+~~

422 ~~(II) Is enrolled full time in an accredited high school;~~  
 423 ~~or~~

424 ~~(III) Is enrolled full time in an accredited adult~~  
 425 ~~education program designed to provide the student with a high~~  
 426 ~~school diploma or its equivalent.~~

427 3. A young adult applying for the ~~a~~ Road-to-Independence  
 428 Program Scholarship must apply for any other grants and  
 429 scholarships for which he or she may qualify. The department  
 430 shall assist the young adult in the application process ~~and may~~  
 431 ~~use the federal financial aid grant process to determine the~~  
 432 ~~funding needs of the young adult.~~

433 4. An award shall be available to a young adult who is  
 434 considered a full-time student or its equivalent by the  
 435 educational institution in which he or she is enrolled, unless  
 436 that young adult is employed, has a recognized disability  
 437 preventing full-time attendance, or practices a vocation. The  
 438 amount of an award under this subparagraph may be disregarded  
 439 for purposes of determining the young adult's eligibility for,  
 440 or the amount of, any other federal or federally supported  
 441 assistance ~~The amount of the award, whether it is being used by~~  
 442 ~~a young adult working toward completion of a high school diploma~~  
 443 ~~or its equivalent or working toward completion of a~~  
 444 ~~postsecondary education program, shall be determined based on an~~  
 445 ~~assessment of the funding needs of the young adult. This~~  
 446 ~~assessment must consider the young adult's living and~~  
 447 ~~educational costs and other grants, scholarships, waivers,~~



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448 ~~earnings, and other income to be received by the young adult. An~~  
449 ~~award shall be available only to the extent that other grants~~  
450 ~~and scholarships are not sufficient to meet the living and~~  
451 ~~educational needs of the young adult, but an award may not be~~  
452 ~~less than \$25 in order to maintain Medicaid eligibility for the~~  
453 ~~young adult as provided in s. 409.903.~~

454 5.a. The department must advertise the criteria,  
455 application procedures, and availability of the program to:

456 (I) Children and young adults in, leaving, or formerly in  
457 foster care.

458 (II) Case managers.

459 (III) Guidance and family services counselors.

460 (IV) Principals or other relevant school administrators

461 ~~and must ensure that the children and young adults leaving~~  
462 ~~foster care, foster parents, or family services counselors are~~  
463 ~~informed of the availability of the program and the application~~  
464 ~~procedures.~~

465 ~~b. A young adult must apply for the initial award during~~  
466 ~~the 6 months immediately preceding his or her 18th birthday, and~~  
467 ~~the department shall provide assistance with the application~~  
468 ~~process. A young adult who fails to make an initial application,~~  
469 ~~but who otherwise meets the criteria for an initial award, may~~  
470 ~~make one application for the initial award if the application is~~  
471 ~~made before the young adult's 21st birthday. If the young adult~~  
472 ~~does not apply for an initial award before his or her 18th~~  
473 ~~birthday, the department shall inform that young adult of the~~  
474 ~~opportunity to apply before turning 21 years of age.~~

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475 b.e. ~~If funding for the program is available,~~ The  
476 department shall issue awards from the ~~scholarship~~ program for  
477 each young adult who meets all the requirements of the program  
478 to the extent funding is available.

479 c.d. An award shall be issued at the time the eligible  
480 student reaches 18 years of age.

481 d.e. A young adult who is eligible for the Road-to-  
482 Independence Program, transitional support services, or  
483 aftercare services and who so desires shall be allowed to reside  
484 with the licensed foster family or group care provider with whom  
485 he or she was residing at the time of attaining his or her 18th  
486 birthday or to reside in another licensed foster home or with a  
487 group care provider arranged by the department.

488 e.f. If the award recipient transfers from one eligible  
489 institution to another and continues to meet eligibility  
490 requirements, the award must be transferred with the recipient.

491 f.g. ~~Scholarship~~ Funds awarded to any eligible young adult  
492 under this program are in addition to any other services or  
493 funds provided to the young adult by the department through  
494 transitional support services or aftercare services ~~its~~  
495 ~~independent living transition services.~~

496 g.h. The department shall provide information concerning  
497 young adults receiving funding through the Road-to-Independence  
498 Program ~~Scholarship~~ to the Department of Education for inclusion  
499 in the student financial assistance database, as provided in s.  
500 1009.94.

501 h.i. ~~Scholarship~~ Funds are intended to help eligible young  
502 adults ~~students~~ who are former foster children in this state to

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503 receive the educational and vocational training needed to become  
504 independent and self-supporting. The funds shall be terminated  
505 when the young adult has attained one of four postsecondary  
506 goals under subsection (3) or reaches 23 years of age, whichever  
507 occurs earlier. In order to initiate postsecondary education, to  
508 allow for a change in career goal, or to obtain additional  
509 skills in the same educational or vocational area, a young adult  
510 may earn no more than two diplomas, certificates, or  
511 credentials. A young adult attaining an associate of arts or  
512 associate of science degree shall be permitted to work toward  
513 completion of a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science degree  
514 or an equivalent undergraduate degree. Road-to-Independence  
515 Program Scholarship funds may not be used for education or  
516 training after a young adult has attained a bachelor of arts or  
517 a bachelor of science degree or an equivalent undergraduate  
518 degree.

519 ~~i.j.~~ The department shall evaluate and renew each award  
520 annually during the 90-day period before the young adult's  
521 birthday. In order to be eligible for a renewal award for the  
522 subsequent year, the young adult must:

523 (I) Complete the number of hours, or the equivalent  
524 considered part time or full time by the educational  
525 institution, in the last academic year in which the young adult  
526 earned an award ~~a scholarship~~, except for a young adult who  
527 meets the requirements of s. 1009.41.

528 (II) Maintain appropriate progress as required by the  
529 educational institution, except that, if the young adult's  
530 progress is insufficient to renew the award ~~scholarship~~ at any

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531 time during the eligibility period, the young adult may restore  
532 eligibility by improving his or her progress to the required  
533 level.

534 ~~j.k.~~ ~~Scholarship~~ Funds may be terminated during the  
535 interim between an award and the evaluation for a renewal award  
536 if the department determines that the award recipient is no  
537 longer enrolled in an educational institution as defined in sub-  
538 subparagraph 2.d., or is no longer a state resident. The  
539 department shall notify a recipient ~~student~~ who is terminated  
540 and inform the recipient ~~student~~ of his or her right to appeal.

541 ~~k.1.~~ An award recipient who does not qualify for a renewal  
542 award or who chooses not to renew the award may subsequently  
543 apply for reinstatement. An application for reinstatement must  
544 be made before the young adult reaches 21 ~~23~~ years of age, and a  
545 student may not apply for reinstatement more than once. In order  
546 to be eligible for reinstatement, the young adult must meet the  
547 eligibility criteria and the criteria for award renewal for the  
548 ~~scholarship~~ program.

549 1. After the completion of aftercare support services that  
550 satisfy the requirements of sub-subparagraph (a)1.h., payment of  
551 awards under the Road-to-Independence Program shall be made by  
552 direct deposit to the recipient, unless the recipient requests  
553 in writing to the community-based care lead agency or the  
554 department that:

555 (I) The payments be made directly to the recipient by  
556 check or warrant;

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557        (II) The payments or a portion of the payments be made  
558 directly on the recipient's behalf to institutions the recipient  
559 is attending to maintain eligibility under this section; or

560        (III) The payments be made on a two-party check to a  
561 business or landlord for a legitimate expense, whether  
562 reimbursed or not. A legitimate expense for the purposes of this  
563 sub-sub-subparagraph shall include auto repair or maintenance;  
564 educational, job, or training expenses; and costs incurred,  
565 except legal costs, fines, or penalties, when applying for or  
566 executing a rental agreement for the purposes of securing a home  
567 or residence.

568        (c) Transitional support services.--

569        1. In addition to any services provided through aftercare  
570 support or the Road-to-Independence Program Scholarship, a young  
571 adult formerly in foster care may receive other appropriate  
572 short-term funding and services, which may include financial,  
573 housing, counseling, employment, education, mental health,  
574 disability, and other services, if the young adult demonstrates  
575 that the services are critical to the young adult's own efforts  
576 to achieve self-sufficiency and to develop a personal support  
577 system. The department or community-based care provider shall  
578 work with the young adult in developing a joint transition  
579 agreement that is consistent with a needs assessment identifying  
580 the specific need for transitional services to support the young  
581 adult's own efforts. The young adult must have specific tasks to  
582 complete or maintain included in the agreement and be  
583 accountable for the completion of or making progress towards the  
584 completion of these tasks. However, no task shall be forced upon

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585 a young adult and if the young adult and department or  
586 community-based care provider cannot come to agreement regarding  
587 any part of the plan, the young adult may access a grievance  
588 process to its full extent in an effort to resolve the  
589 disagreement.

590 2. A young adult formerly in foster care is eligible to  
591 apply for transitional support services if he or she has reached  
592 18 years of age but is not yet 23 years of age, was a dependent  
593 child pursuant to chapter 39, was living in licensed foster care  
594 or in subsidized independent living at the time of his or her  
595 18th birthday, and had spent at least 6 months living in foster  
596 care before that date.

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

600 (d) Payment of aftercare, Road-to-Independence Program  
601 ~~scholarship~~, or transitional support funds.--Payment of  
602 aftercare, Road-to-Independence Program ~~scholarship~~, or  
603 transitional support funds shall be made directly to the  
604 recipient unless the recipient requests in writing to the  
605 community-based care lead agency, or the department, that the  
606 payments or a portion of the payments be made directly on the  
607 recipient's behalf in order to secure services such as housing,  
608 counseling, education, or employment training as part of the  
609 young adult's own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency. The  
610 community-based care lead agency may purchase housing,  
611 transportation, or employment services to ensure the  
612 availability and affordability of specific transitional services

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613 thereby allowing an eligible young adult to utilize these  
614 services in lieu of receiving a direct payment. Prior to  
615 purchasing such services, the community-based care lead agency  
616 must have a plan approved by the department describing the  
617 services to be purchased, the rationale for purchasing the  
618 services, and a specific range of expenses for each service that  
619 is less than the cost of purchasing the service by an individual  
620 young adult. The plan must include a description of the  
621 transition of a young adult using these services into  
622 independence and a timeframe for achievement of independence. An  
623 eligible young adult who can demonstrate an ability to obtain  
624 these services independently and prefers a direct payment shall  
625 receive such payment. The plan must be reviewed annually and  
626 evaluated for cost-efficiency and for effectiveness in assisting  
627 young adults in achieving independence, preventing homelessness  
628 among young adults, and enabling young adults to earn a livable  
629 wage in a permanent employment situation. The young adult who  
630 resides with a foster family may not be included as a child in  
631 calculating any licensing restriction on the number of children  
632 in the foster home.

633 (e) Appeals process.--

634 1. The Department of Children and Family Services shall  
635 adopt by rule a procedure by which a young adult may appeal an  
636 eligibility determination or the department's failure to provide  
637 aftercare, Road-to-Independence Program scholarship, or  
638 transitional support services, or the termination of such  
639 services, if such funds are available.

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640           2. The procedure developed by the department must be  
641 readily available to young adults, must provide timely  
642 decisions, and must provide for an appeal to the Secretary of  
643 Children and Family Services. The decision of the secretary  
644 constitutes final agency action and is reviewable by the court  
645 as provided in s. 120.68.

646           (6) ACCOUNTABILITY.--The department shall maintain  
647 oversight by developing ~~develop~~ outcome measures ~~for the program~~  
648 and other performance measures and presenting these measures in  
649 an annual report to the appropriate substantive committees of  
650 the Senate and the House of Representatives. The report must  
651 include:

652           (a) An evaluation of the goals and measures developed  
653 under this section as compared to the outcomes achieved by and  
654 the performance of the department.

655           (b) A summary of data gathered pursuant to sub-  
656 subparagraph (5)(b)5.m.

657           (c) Rules adopted or proposed under this section since the  
658 last report. For the purposes of the first report, any rules  
659 adopted or proposed under this section must be included.

660           (7) INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL.--The  
661 Secretary of Children and Family Services shall establish the  
662 Independent Living Services Advisory Council for the purpose of  
663 reviewing and making recommendations concerning the  
664 implementation and operation of the independent living  
665 transition services. This advisory council shall continue to  
666 function as specified in this subsection until the Legislature  
667 determines that the advisory council can no longer provide a



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668 | valuable contribution to the department's efforts to achieve the  
669 | goals of the independent living transition services.

670 |       (a) Specifically, the advisory council shall assess the  
671 | implementation and operation of the system of independent living  
672 | transition services and advise the department on actions that  
673 | would improve the ability of the independent living transition  
674 | services to meet the established goals. The advisory council  
675 | shall keep the department informed of problems being experienced  
676 | with the services, barriers to the effective and efficient  
677 | integration of services and support across systems, and  
678 | successes that the system of independent living transition  
679 | services has achieved. The department shall consider, but is not  
680 | required to implement, the recommendations of the advisory  
681 | council.

682 |       (b) The advisory council shall report to the appropriate  
683 | substantive committees of the Senate and the House of  
684 | Representatives on the status of the implementation of the  
685 | system of independent living transition services; efforts to  
686 | publicize the availability of aftercare support services, the  
687 | Road-to-Independence ~~Scholarship~~ Program, and transitional  
688 | support services; ~~specific barriers to financial aid created by~~  
689 | ~~the scholarship and possible solutions;~~ the success of the  
690 | services; problems identified; recommendations for department or  
691 | legislative action; and the department's implementation of the  
692 | recommendations contained in the Independent Living Services  
693 | Integration Workgroup Report submitted to the Senate and the  
694 | House substantive committees December 31, 2002. This advisory  
695 | council report shall be submitted by December 31 of each year

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696 that the council is in existence and shall be accompanied by a  
697 report from the department which identifies the recommendations  
698 of the advisory council and either describes the department's  
699 actions to implement these recommendations or provides the  
700 department's rationale for not implementing the recommendations.

701 (c) Members of the advisory council shall be appointed by  
702 the secretary of the department. The membership of the advisory  
703 council must include, at a minimum, representatives from the  
704 headquarters and district offices of the Department of Children  
705 and Family Services, community-based care lead agencies, the  
706 Agency for Workforce Innovation, the Department of Education,  
707 the Agency for Health Care Administration, the State Youth  
708 Advisory Board, Workforce Florida, Inc., the Statewide Guardian  
709 Ad Litem Office, foster parents, recipients of Road-to-  
710 Independence Program funding, and advocates for foster children.  
711 The secretary shall determine the length of the term to be  
712 served by each member appointed to the advisory council, which  
713 may not exceed 4 years.

714 (d) The advisory council shall have access to all  
715 appropriate data from the Department of Children and Family  
716 Services and the community-based care lead agencies or other  
717 relevant agencies to accomplish the tasks set forth in this  
718 section. This data shall not include any confidential  
719 information that would lead to the identity of a specific child  
720 or young adult.

721 (8) PERSONAL PROPERTY.--Property acquired on behalf of  
722 clients of this program shall become the personal property of  
723 the clients and is not subject to the requirements of chapter

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724 273 relating to state-owned tangible personal property. Such  
725 property continues to be subject to applicable federal laws.

726 (9) MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR YOUNG ADULTS FORMERLY IN FOSTER  
727 CARE.--The department shall enroll in the Florida KidCare  
728 program, outside the open enrollment period, each young adult  
729 who is eligible as described in paragraph (2) (b) and who has not  
730 yet reached his or her 19th birthday.

731 (a) A young adult who was formerly in foster care at the  
732 time of his or her 18th birthday and who is 18 years of age but  
733 not yet 19, shall pay the premium for the Florida KidCare  
734 program as required in s. 409.814.

735 (b) A young adult who has health insurance coverage from a  
736 third party through his or her employer or who is eligible for  
737 Medicaid is not eligible for enrollment under this subsection.

738 (10) RULEMAKING.--The department shall adopt by rule  
739 procedures to administer this section, including balancing the  
740 goals of normalcy and safety for the youth and providing the  
741 caregivers with as much flexibility as possible to enable the  
742 youth to participate in normal life experiences. The department  
743 shall not adopt rules relating to reductions in ~~scholarship~~  
744 awards. The department shall engage in appropriate planning to  
745 prevent, to the extent possible, a reduction in ~~scholarship~~  
746 awards after issuance. The department shall not establish, by  
747 rule or practice, a limit on the amount of aftercare or  
748 transitional support services funding an eligible young adult  
749 may receive. This amount shall be determined based on the  
750 specific needs of the young adult and the availability of funds.

751           (11) CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES.--The department shall  
752 contract with a qualified nonprofit entity, legally operating  
753 within the state, to coordinate and manage all services  
754 described in this section and to manage all funds available to  
755 provide those services and related support services, including  
756 case management, administrative, and out-of-home care funds for  
757 children and young adults eligible for these services when they  
758 reach 16 years of age until they reach 23 years of age or are  
759 otherwise no longer eligible. The contract shall include funding  
760 for the current positions, associated expenses, and other  
761 administrative costs within the department's budget. The  
762 selected entity shall coordinate and manage the services and may  
763 not directly provide services unless the selected entity is  
764 currently providing these services within a community-based care  
765 project. The selected entity shall not provide services to  
766 children and young adults beyond the limits of the existing  
767 contract. The entity shall contract with community-based care  
768 lead agencies to provide the services or with local community  
769 provider agencies that have specific skills and experience with  
770 providing transitional support services to children and young  
771 adults and with which the lead agency has collaborated.

772           (12) AWARD OF FUNDING.--The total amount of the funds  
773 awarded directly to an eligible young adult under paragraph  
774 (5) (b) shall be based upon the living and educational needs of  
775 the young adult and may equal, but not exceed, the amount of  
776 earnings that the young adult would have been eligible to earn  
777 working a 40-hour-a-week federal minimum wage job, excluding any

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778 funds provided for immediate need or emergency services as one-  
779 time payments.

780 Section 2. Section 409.903, Florida Statutes, is amended  
781 to read:

782 409.903 Mandatory payments for eligible persons.--The  
783 agency shall make payments for medical assistance and related  
784 services on behalf of the following persons who the department,  
785 or the Social Security Administration by contract with the  
786 Department of Children and Family Services, determines to be  
787 eligible, subject to the income, assets, and categorical  
788 eligibility tests set forth in federal and state law. Payment on  
789 behalf of these Medicaid eligible persons is subject to the  
790 availability of moneys and any limitations established by the  
791 General Appropriations Act or chapter 216.

792 (1) Low-income families with children are eligible for  
793 Medicaid provided they meet the following requirements:

794 (a) The family includes a dependent child who is living  
795 with a caretaker relative.

796 (b) The family's income does not exceed the gross income  
797 test limit.

798 (c) The family's countable income and resources do not  
799 exceed the applicable Aid to Families with Dependent Children  
800 (AFDC) income and resource standards under the AFDC state plan  
801 in effect in July 1996, except as amended in the Medicaid state  
802 plan to conform as closely as possible to the requirements of  
803 the welfare transition program, to the extent permitted by  
804 federal law.

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805 (2) A person who receives payments from, who is determined  
806 eligible for, or who was eligible for but lost cash benefits  
807 from the federal program known as the Supplemental Security  
808 Income program (SSI). This category includes a low-income person  
809 age 65 or over and a low-income person under age 65 considered  
810 to be permanently and totally disabled.

811 (3) A child under age 21 living in a low-income, two-  
812 parent family, and a child under age 7 living with a  
813 nonrelative, if the income and assets of the family or child, as  
814 applicable, do not exceed the resource limits under the WAGES  
815 Program.

816 (4) A child who is eligible under Title IV-E of the Social  
817 Security Act for subsidized board payments, foster care, or  
818 adoption subsidies, and a child for whom the state has assumed  
819 temporary or permanent responsibility and who does not qualify  
820 for Title IV-E assistance but is in foster care, shelter or  
821 emergency shelter care, or subsidized adoption. This category  
822 includes a young adult who is eligible to receive services under  
823 s. 409.1451(5) until he or she reaches age 21, without regard to  
824 any income, assets, or categorical eligibility tests set forth  
825 in federal and state law ~~child who was eligible under Title IV-E~~  
826 ~~of the Social Security Act for foster care or the state provided~~  
827 ~~foster care, who exited foster care due to attaining the age of~~  
828 ~~18 years, and who has been awarded a Road to Independence~~  
829 ~~Scholarship.~~

830 (5) A pregnant woman for the duration of her pregnancy and  
831 for the postpartum period as defined in federal law and rule, or  
832 a child under age 1, if either is living in a family that has an

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833 income which is at or below 150 percent of the most current  
834 federal poverty level, or, effective January 1, 1992, that has  
835 an income which is at or below 185 percent of the most current  
836 federal poverty level. Such a person is not subject to an assets  
837 test. Further, a pregnant woman who applies for eligibility for  
838 the Medicaid program through a qualified Medicaid provider must  
839 be offered the opportunity, subject to federal rules, to be made  
840 presumptively eligible for the Medicaid program.

841 (6) A child born after September 30, 1983, living in a  
842 family that has an income which is at or below 100 percent of  
843 the current federal poverty level, who has attained the age of  
844 6, but has not attained the age of 19. In determining the  
845 eligibility of such a child, an assets test is not required. A  
846 child who is eligible for Medicaid under this subsection must be  
847 offered the opportunity, subject to federal rules, to be made  
848 presumptively eligible. A child who has been deemed  
849 presumptively eligible for Medicaid shall not be enrolled in a  
850 managed care plan until the child's full eligibility  
851 determination for Medicaid has been completed.

852 (7) A child living in a family that has an income which is  
853 at or below 133 percent of the current federal poverty level,  
854 who has attained the age of 1, but has not attained the age of  
855 6. In determining the eligibility of such a child, an assets  
856 test is not required. A child who is eligible for Medicaid under  
857 this subsection must be offered the opportunity, subject to  
858 federal rules, to be made presumptively eligible. A child who  
859 has been deemed presumptively eligible for Medicaid shall not be

860 enrolled in a managed care plan until the child's full  
 861 eligibility determination for Medicaid has been completed.

862 (8) A person who is age 65 or over or is determined by the  
 863 agency to be disabled, whose income is at or below 100 percent  
 864 of the most current federal poverty level and whose assets do  
 865 not exceed limitations established by the agency. However, the  
 866 agency may only pay for premiums, coinsurance, and deductibles,  
 867 as required by federal law, unless additional coverage is  
 868 provided for any or all members of this group by s. 409.904(1).  
 869

870 The Department of Children and Family Services shall notify the  
 871 Agency for Health Care Administration within 10 days after it  
 872 opens a case for child welfare services in the HomeSafeNet  
 873 system for a Medicaid recipient. If that Medicaid recipient is a  
 874 member of a Medicaid prepaid health plan, the agency shall notify  
 875 the prepaid health plan within 10 days after it opens a case for  
 876 child welfare services. When a child who is receiving health  
 877 care benefits under Medicaid is placed in the care and custody  
 878 or under the supervision of the department, the agency shall  
 879 make available all health care records, including behavioral  
 880 health care records and all prescription drugs prescribed for  
 881 the child on a continuous and daily basis. The agency shall make  
 882 these records available in an electronic format to allow the  
 883 department and the community-based care lead agencies to create  
 884 an electronic health record or electronic medical passport for  
 885 each child in the database of their choice and have it refreshed  
 886 at least every 24 hours. The agency is not required to make this  
 887 information available in multiple formats, but only in a format



888 the department and the community-based care lead agencies can  
 889 use for the purpose of creating the electronic medical passport.

890 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 39.013, Florida  
 891 Statutes, is amended to read:

892 39.013 Procedures and jurisdiction; right to counsel.--

893 (2) The circuit court shall have exclusive original  
 894 jurisdiction of all proceedings under this chapter, of a child  
 895 voluntarily placed with a licensed child-caring agency, a  
 896 licensed child-placing agency, or the department, and of the  
 897 adoption of children whose parental rights have been terminated  
 898 under this chapter. Jurisdiction attaches when the initial  
 899 shelter petition, dependency petition, or termination of  
 900 parental rights petition is filed or when a child is taken into  
 901 the custody of the department. The circuit court may assume  
 902 jurisdiction over any such proceeding regardless of whether the  
 903 child was in the physical custody of both parents, was in the  
 904 sole legal or physical custody of only one parent, caregiver, or  
 905 some other person, or was in the physical or legal custody of no  
 906 person when the event or condition occurred that brought the  
 907 child to the attention of the court. When the court obtains  
 908 jurisdiction of any child who has been found to be dependent,  
 909 the court shall retain jurisdiction, unless relinquished by its  
 910 order, until the child reaches 18 years of age. However, if a  
 911 youth petitions the court at any time before his or her 19th  
 912 birthday requesting the court's continued jurisdiction, the  
 913 juvenile court may retain jurisdiction under this chapter for a  
 914 period not to exceed 1 year following the youth's 18th birthday  
 915 for the purpose of determining whether appropriate aftercare

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916 support, Road-to-Independence Program Scholarship, transitional  
917 support, mental health, and developmental disability services,  
918 to the extent otherwise authorized by law, have been provided to  
919 the formerly dependent child who was in the legal custody of the  
920 department immediately before his or her 18th birthday. If a  
921 petition for special immigrant juvenile status and an  
922 application for adjustment of status have been filed on behalf  
923 of a foster child and the petition and application have not been  
924 granted by the time the child reaches 18 years of age, the court  
925 may retain jurisdiction over the dependency case solely for the  
926 purpose of allowing the continued consideration of the petition  
927 and application by federal authorities. Review hearings for the  
928 child shall be set solely for the purpose of determining the  
929 status of the petition and application. The court's jurisdiction  
930 terminates upon the final decision of the federal authorities.  
931 Retention of jurisdiction in this instance does not affect the  
932 services available to a young adult under s. 409.1451. The court  
933 may not retain jurisdiction of the case after the immigrant  
934 child's 22nd birthday.

935 Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section  
936 39.701, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

937 39.701 Judicial review.--

938 (6) (a) In addition to paragraphs (1) (a) and (2) (a), the  
939 court shall hold a judicial review hearing within 90 days after  
940 a youth's 17th birthday and shall continue to hold timely  
941 judicial review hearings. In addition, the court may review the  
942 status of the child more frequently during the year prior to the  
943 youth's 18th birthday if necessary. At each review held under

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944 this subsection, in addition to any information or report  
945 provided to the court, the foster parent, legal custodian,  
946 guardian ad litem, and the child shall be given the opportunity  
947 to address the court with any information relevant to the  
948 child's best interests, particularly as it relates to  
949 independent living transition services. In addition to any  
950 information or report provided to the court, the department  
951 shall include in its judicial review social study report written  
952 verification that the child:

953 1. Has been provided with a current Medicaid card and has  
954 been provided all necessary information concerning the Medicaid  
955 program sufficient to prepare the youth to apply for coverage  
956 upon reaching age 18, if such application would be appropriate.

957 2. Has been provided with a certified copy of his or her  
958 birth certificate and, if the child does not have a valid  
959 driver's license, a Florida identification card issued under s.  
960 322.051.

961 3. Has been provided information relating to Social  
962 Security Insurance benefits if the child is eligible for these  
963 benefits. If the child has received these benefits and they are  
964 being held in trust for the child, a full accounting of those  
965 funds must be provided and the child must be informed about how  
966 to access those funds.

967 4. Has been provided with information and training related  
968 to budgeting skills, interviewing skills, and parenting skills.

969 5. Has been provided with all relevant information related  
970 to the Road-to-Independence Program Scholarship, including, but  
971 not limited to, eligibility requirements, forms necessary to

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972 apply, and assistance in completing the forms. The child shall  
973 also be informed that, if he or she is eligible for the Road-to-  
974 Independence Scholarship Program, he or she may reside with the  
975 licensed foster family or group care provider with whom the  
976 child was residing at the time of attaining his or her 18th  
977 birthday or may reside in another licensed foster home or with a  
978 group care provider arranged by the department.

979 6. Has an open bank account, or has identification  
980 necessary to open an account, and has been provided with  
981 essential banking skills.

982 7. Has been provided with information on public assistance  
983 and how to apply.

984 8. Has been provided a clear understanding of where he or  
985 she will be living on his or her 18th birthday, how living  
986 expenses will be paid, and what educational program or school he  
987 or she will be enrolled in.

988 9. Has been provided with notice of the youth's right to  
989 petition for the court's continuing jurisdiction for 1 year  
990 after the youth's 18th birthday as specified in s. 39.013(2) and  
991 with information on how to obtain access to the court.

992 10. Has been encouraged to attend all judicial review  
993 hearings occurring after his or her 17th birthday.

994 Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
995 1009.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

996 1009.25 Fee exemptions.--

997 (2) The following students are exempt from the payment of  
998 tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that

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999 provides postsecondary career programs, community college, or  
 1000 state university:

1001 (c) A student who ~~the state has determined is eligible for~~  
 1002 ~~the Road to Independence Scholarship, regardless of whether an~~  
 1003 ~~award is issued or not, or a student who is or was at the time~~  
 1004 he or she reached 18 years of age in the custody of the  
 1005 Department of Children and Family Services or a relative under  
 1006 s. 39.5085, or who is adopted from the Department of Children  
 1007 and Family Services after May 5, 1997, or who, after spending at  
 1008 least 6 months in the custody of the department after reaching  
 1009 16 years of age, was placed in a guardianship by the court. Such  
 1010 exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in career-  
 1011 preparatory instruction and completion of the college-level  
 1012 communication and computation skills testing program. Such an  
 1013 exemption is available to any student who was in the custody of  
 1014 a relative under s. 39.5085 at the time he or she reached 18  
 1015 years of age or was adopted from the Department of Children and  
 1016 Family Services after May 5, 1997; however, the exemption  
 1017 remains valid for no more than 4 years after the date of  
 1018 graduation from high school.

1019 Section 6. The sum of \$200,000 in recurring revenue is  
 1020 appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of  
 1021 Children and Family Services for the 2006-2007 fiscal year  
 1022 specifically to contract with an agency selected by the  
 1023 Independent Living Advisory Council to provide the  
 1024 administrative support to the advisory council to accomplish the  
 1025 purposes of s. 409.1451, Florida Statutes.

1026 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.