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CHAMBER ACTION

	Senate House
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11	The Committee on Community Affairs (Crist) recommended the
12	following amendment:
13	TOTIOWING amendment.
14	Consts Amendment (with title smoothers)
	Senate Amendment (with title amendment)
15	Delete everything after the enacting clause
16	
17	and insert:
18	Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (22) of section
19	420.507, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
20	420.507 Powers of the corporationThe corporation
21	shall have all the powers necessary or convenient to carry out
22	and effectuate the purposes and provisions of this part,
23	including the following powers which are in addition to all
24	other powers granted by other provisions of this part:
25	(22) To develop and administer the State Apartment
26	Incentive Loan Program. In developing and administering that
27	program, the corporation may:
28	(a) Make first, second, and other subordinated
29	mortgage loans including variable or fixed rate loans subject
30	to contingent interest for all State Apartment Incentive Loans
31	provided for in this chapter based upon available cash flow of
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- 1 | the projects. The corporation shall make loans exceeding 25
 2 | percent of project cost available only to nonprofit
- 3 organizations and public bodies which are able to secure
- grants, donations of land, or contributions from other sources
- 5 and to projects meeting the criteria of subparagraph 1.
- 6 Mortgage loans shall be made available at the following rates 7 of interest:
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- 1. Zero to 3 percent interest for sponsors of projects that set aside at least 80 percent of their total units for residents qualifying as farmworkers as defined in this part, or commercial fishing workers as defined in this part, or the homeless as defined in s. 420.621(6)(4) over the life of the loan.
- 2. Zero to 3 percent interest based on the pro rata share of units set aside for homeless residents if the total of such units is less than 80 percent of the units in the borrower's project.
- 3. One to 9 percent interest for sponsors of projects targeted at populations other than farmworkers, commercial fishing workers, and the homeless.
- Section 2. Section 420.621, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 420.621 Definitions; ss. 420.621-420.628

 420.621-420.627.--As used in ss. 420.621-420.628

 420.621-420.627, the term following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (1) "Children and youths experiencing homelessness,"

 for programs authorized under the McKinney-Vento Education

 Assistance for Homeless Children and Youths, 42 U.S.C. ss.

 11431 et seq., means children and youths who lack a fixed,

 regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes:

1	(a) Children and youths who are sharing the housing of
2	other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a
3	similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, travel trailer
4	parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative
5	adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or
6	transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are
7	awaiting foster care placement.
8	(b) Children and youths who have a primary nighttime
9	residence that is a public or private place not designed for
10	or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for
11	human beings.
12	(c) Children and youths who are living in cars, parks,
13	public spaces, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or
14	similar settings.
15	(d) Migratory children who are living in circumstances
16	described in paragraphs (a)-(c).
17	(2) "Continuum of care" means a community plan to
18	organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific
19	needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable
20	housing and maximum self-sufficiency. It includes action steps
21	to end homelessness and prevent a return to homelessness.
22	(3) "Council on Homelessness" means the council
23	<u>created in s. 420.622.</u>
24	(1) "AFDC" means Aid to Families with Dependent
25	Children as administered under chapter 409.
26	$\overline{(4)}$ "Department" means the Department of Children
27	and Family Services.
28	(5) "District" means a service district of the
29	department of Children and Family Services, as set forth in s.
30	20.19.
31	(6)(4) "Homeless," applied to an individual, or
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1	"individual experiencing homelessness" means "Homeless" refers
2	to an individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate
3	nighttime residence <u>and includes</u> or an individual who has a
4	primary nighttime residence that is:
5	(a) <u>Is sharing the housing of other persons due to</u>
6	loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
7	(b) Is living in a motel, hotel, travel trailer park,
8	or camping ground due to a lack of alternative adequate
9	accommodations;
10	(c) Is living in an emergency or transitional shelter;
11	A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed
12	to provide temporary living accommodations, including welfare
13	hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the
14	mentally ill;
15	(b) An institution that provides a temporary residence
16	for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or
17	(d) (c) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a
18	public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used
19	as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings:
20	(e) Is living in a car, park, public space, abandoned
21	building, bus or train station, or similar setting; or
22	(f) Is a migratory individual who qualifies as
23	homeless because he or she is living in circumstances
24	<u>described in paragraphs (a)-(e)</u> .
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26	The <u>terms defined in this subsection do</u> term does not refer to
27	any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to
28	state or federal law. <u>The terms also do not include</u>
29	individuals or families who are sharing housing due to
30	cultural preferences, voluntary arrangements, and traditional
31	networks of support. The terms include an individual who has
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1	been released from jail, prison, the juvenile justice system,
2	the child welfare system, a mental health and developmental
3	disability facility, a residential addiction treatment
4	program, or a hospital, for whom no subsequent residence has
5	been identified, and who lacks the resources and support
6	network to obtain housing.
7	$\frac{(7)}{(5)}$ "Local coalition for the homeless" means a
8	coalition established pursuant to s. 420.623.
9	(8) (6) "New and temporary homeless" means those
10	individuals or families who are homeless due to societal
11	external factors, such as unemployment or other loss of
12	income, personal or family-life crises, or the shortage of
13	low-income housing .
14	(9) "Societal causes of homelessness" means factors
15	such as lack of housing for individuals and families with low
16	incomes, lack of employment opportunities for those with a
17	high school education or less, and lack of day care,
18	transportation, and other institutional supports.
19	(10)(7) "State Office on Homelessness" means the state
20	office created in s. 420.622 "Secretary" means the secretary
21	of the Department of Children and Family Services.
22	Section 3. Subsections (2) and (9) of section 420.622,
23	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
24	420.622 State Office on Homelessness; Council on
25	Homelessness
26	(2) The Council on Homelessness is created to consist
27	of a <u>17-member</u> 15-member council of public and private agency
28	representatives who shall develop policy and advise the State
29	Office on Homelessness. The council members shall be: the
30	Secretary of Children and Family Services, or his or her
31	designee; the Secretary of Community Affairs, or his or her
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designee; the Secretary of Health, or his or her designee; the Executive Director of Veterans' Affairs, or his or her 2. designee; the Secretary of Corrections, or his or her 3 designee; the Secretary of Health Care Administration, or his or her designee; the Commissioner of Education, or his or her 5 designee; the Director of Workforce Florida, Inc., or his or 6 7 her designee; one representative of the Florida Association of Counties; one representative from the Florida League of 8 Cities; one representative of the Florida Coalition for 9 10 Supportive Housing Coalition; the Executive Director of the 11 Florida Housing Finance Corporation, or his or her designee; one representative of the Florida Coalition for the Homeless; 12 13 one representative of the Florida State Rural Development Council; and four members appointed by the Governor. The 14 15 council members shall be volunteer, nonpaid persons and shall be reimbursed for travel expenses only. The appointed members 16 of the council shall serve staggered 2-year terms, and the 17 18 council shall meet at least four times per year. The 19 importance of minority, gender, and geographic representation 20 must be considered when appointing members to the council. 21 (9) The council shall, by <u>June 30</u> December 31 of each 22 year, <u>beginning in 2008</u>, issue to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 23 24 and the Secretary of Children and Family Services an evaluation of the executive director's performance in 25 fulfilling the statutory duties of the office, a report 26 summarizing the council's recommendations to the office and 27 28 the corresponding actions taken by the office, and any recommendations to the Legislature for proposals to reduce 29 homelessness in this state. 30 31 Section 4. Section 420.6275, Florida Statutes, is 8:51 AM 04/24/07 s2824c1d-ca12-s01

1	created to read:
2	420.6275 Housing First
3	(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT
4	(a) The Legislature finds that many communities plan
5	to manage homelessness rather than plan to end it.
6	(b) The Legislature also finds that for most of the
7	past two decades, public and private solutions to homelessness
8	have focused on providing individuals and families who are
9	experiencing homelessness with emergency shelter, transitional
10	housing, or a combination of both. While emergency shelter
11	programs may provide critical access to services for
12	individuals and families in crisis, they often fail to address
13	the long-term needs of those who are homeless.
14	(c) The Legislature further finds that Housing First
15	is an alternative approach to the current system of emergency
16	shelter or transitional housing which tends to reduce the
17	length of time of homelessness and has proven to be
18	cost-effective to homeless programs.
19	(d) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to
20	encourage local coalitions for the homeless, established
21	pursuant to s. 420.623, to adopt the Housing First approach to
22	ending homelessness for individuals and families.
23	(2) HOUSING FIRST METHODOLOGY
24	(a) The Housing First approach to homelessness differs
25	from traditional approaches by providing housing assistance,
26	case management, and support services responsive to individual
27	or family needs after housing is obtained. By using the
28	Housing First approach when appropriate, communities can
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	significantly reduce the amount of time that individuals and
30	families are homeless and prevent further episodes of
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1	provided to enhance individual and family well-being can be
2	more effective when people are in their own home, and:
3	1. The housing is not time-limited.
4	2. The housing is not contingent on compliance with
5	services. Instead, participants must comply with a standard
6	lease agreement and are provided with the services and support
7	that are necessary to help them do so successfully.
8	(b) The Housing First approach addresses the societal
9	causes of homelessness and advocates for the immediate return
10	of individuals and families back into housing and communities.
11	Housing First provides a critical link between the emergency
12	and transitional housing system and community-based social
13	service, educational, and health care organizations and
14	consists of four components:
15	1. Crisis intervention and short-term stabilization.
16	2. Screening, intake, and needs assessment.
17	3. Provision of housing resources.
18	4. Provision of case management.
19	Section 5. Section 420.628, Florida Statutes, is
20	created to read:
21	420.628 Children and young adults leaving foster
22	<u>care</u>
23	(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT
24	(a) The Legislature finds that the transition from
25	childhood to adulthood is filled with opportunity and risk.
26	Most young people who receive adequate support make this
27	transition successfully and will become healthy adults who
28	will be prepared for work and be able to become responsible,
29	fulfilled members of their families and communities.
30	(b) The Legislature finds that there are also many
31	young people who will enter adulthood without the knowledge,
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1	skills, attitudes, habits, and relationships that will enable
2	them to be productive members of society. Those young people,
3	who through no fault of their own, live in foster families,
4	group homes, and institutions are among those at greatest
5	risk.
6	(c) The Legislature finds that these young people face
7	numerous barriers to a successful transition to adulthood.
8	Those barriers include changes in foster care placements and
9	schools, limited opportunities for participation in
10	age-appropriate normal activities, and the inability to
11	achieve economic stability, make connections with permanent
12	supportive adults or family, and access housing. The main
13	barriers to safe and affordable housing for youth aging out of
14	the foster care system are cost, lack of availability, the
15	unwillingness of many landlords to rent to them, and their own
16	lack of knowledge about how to be good tenants.
17	(d) The Legislature also finds that young adults who
18	emancipate from the child welfare system are at risk of
19	becoming homeless and those who were formerly in foster care
20	are disproportionately represented in the homeless population.
21	Only about two-fifths of eligible young people receive
22	independent living services and, of those who do, few receive
23	adequate housing assistance. Without the stability of safe
24	housing all other services, training, and opportunities may
25	not be effective.
26	(e) The Legislature further finds that research on
27	young people who emancipate from foster care suggests a nexus
28	between foster care involvement and later episodes of
29	homelessness and that interventions in the foster care system
30	might help to prevent homelessness. Responding to the needs of
31	young people leaving the foster care system with
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1	developmentally appropriate supportive housing models
2	organized in a continuum of decreasing supervision may
3	increase their ability to live independently in the future.
4	(f) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to
5	encourage the Department of Children and Family Services, its
6	agents, and community-based care providers operating pursuant
7	to s. 409.1671, to develop and implement procedures designed
8	to reduce the number of young adults who become homeless after
9	leaving the child welfare system.
10	(2) YOUTH HOUSING FIRST CONTINUUM PILOT
11	PROGRAM Housing for young people is by nature transitional.
12	Most young people in their late teens through mid-twenties are
13	housed in college dormitories or shared or studio apartments
14	or continue to live at home. Commonly, young people move
15	through a number of such interim housing situations as they
16	grow into adulthood. Many older teens and young adults who
17	leave foster care at the age of 18 do not have the opportunity
18	for those usual transitions and as a result are at risk for
19	becoming homeless.
20	(a) Creation of pilot program; eligibilityThere is
21	created a 3-year Youth Housing First Continuum Pilot Program
22	in Hillsborough County. The purpose of the program is to
23	support the development and implementation of a transitional
24	living or subsidized independent living housing experience for
25	those young people aging out of foster care who will not have
26	the option of remaining in a foster care family home or in a
27	group home, to facilitate a smooth transition from foster home
28	or group home living to independent living. The pilot program
29	shall serve at least 100 young adults, and eligibility
30	requirements shall include:
31	1. Young adults who turn 18 years of age while in
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1	licensed foster care and have been in foster care for at least
2	12 months prior to turning 18 years of age. The 12-month
3	requirement shall be waived in circumstances where the
4	requirements of s. 39.701(6)(a)8. have not been met, no
5	subsequent residence has been identified, and the young person
6	lacks the resources and support network to obtain housing.
7	2. Priority shall be given to those young persons who
8	are attending high school and can demonstrate either through
9	documentation of school attendance or engagement in
10	extracurricular activities that a displacement from school
11	would have an adverse effect on their ability to achieve their
12	educational qoals.
13	3. Other participants shall be chosen based on their
14	eligibility pursuant to s. 409.1451(2) and documented
15	enrollment in a full-time adult educational or postsecondary
16	educational or vocational program or a combination of
17	employment and part-time enrollment in an educational program.
18	(b) Pilot program design There shall be a youth
19	housing continuum that incorporates various types of housing
20	without predetermined time limits to allow young adults to
21	transition from one housing program to another according to
22	their individual developmental capacities. Based upon the
23	needs and preferences of a given young adult, such housing
24	could take any number of forms from shared homes to
25	scattered-site, independent apartments with or without
26	roommates. Young adults should have the flexibility to move
27	among housing programs as they gain independent living skills
28	and economic stability, including the ability to reenter
29	housing programs and move back along the continuum if their
30	current needs or abilities change. The continuum in the pilot
31	program will consist of the following three levels of
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1	decreasing supervision:
2	1. Supervised living for young adults who have reached
3	18 years of age, but are not yet 24 years of age, who cannot
4	adequately manage their affairs and need constant, consistent
5	adult supervision, training, and support. Each participant
6	shall have his or her own bedroom and bathroom and share a
7	common living area.
8	2. Monitored living for young adults who have reached
9	18 years of age, but are not yet 24 years of age, who can
10	typically manage their own affairs but need regular adult
11	monitoring. Housing will be provided in scattered sites
12	throughout the community with support staff working regularly
13	with participants to address their educational, employment,
14	and financial stability goals. Each participant shall have his
15	or her own bedroom and bathroom and share an apartment with
16	one to three roommates.
17	3. Independent living for young adults who have the
18	ability to live on their own with access to support services
19	as needed.
20	(c) Pilot program administration; duties;
21	reportConnected by 25 in Hillsborough County shall provide
22	administrative support for and shall be responsible for the
23	operation for the Youth Housing First Continuum Pilot Program.
24	Connected by 25 shall:
25	1. Create and implement a transitional housing
26	continuum in which young persons who meet the eligibility
27	criteria of this subsection will receive support while
28	participating in an educational or training program, or any
29	activity consistent with their independent living transitional
30	services case plan. The housing continuum should be based on
31	the Housing First approach, which is premised on accessing
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1	adequate, stable housing and receiving the services necessary
2	to maintain such housing.
3	2. Provide each program participant with a transition
4	and aftercare specialist to provide transitional support
5	services. Each participant, in partnership with the transition
6	and aftercare specialist, shall develop a transition plan that
7	is specific to his or her efforts to achieve self-sufficiency.
8	3. Require that each participant complete a
9	comprehensive financial literacy and asset development
10	training program and be enrolled in the Connected by 25 match
11	savings program that utilizes private dollars to match, on a
12	one-to-one basis, the savings of each participant up to \$1,000
13	each year. This requirement will prepare program participants
14	for economic success as they age out of the foster care
15	system.
16	(d) Annual reportsBeginning January 1, 2008, and
17	continuing for the duration of the pilot program, Connected by
18	25 shall submit to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of
19	Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the
20	Secretary of Children and Family Services an annual report
21	outlining the progress made in the development and
22	implementation of the pilot program, including documentation
23	of the outcomes for the participants in the areas identified
24	by the Independent Living Services Advisory Council pursuant
25	to s. 409.1451, and recommendations for pilot program
26	improvement and expansion.
27	Section 6. Subsection (12) of section 1003.01, Florida
28	Statutes, is amended to read:
29	1003.01 DefinitionsAs used in this chapter, the
30	term:
31	(12) "Children and youths who are experiencing
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1	homelessness, for programs authorized under subtitle B,
2	Education for Homeless Children and Youths, of title VII of
3	the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. ss.
4	11431 et seq., means children and youths who lack a fixed,
5	regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and includes:
6	(a) Children and youths who are sharing the housing of
7	other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a
8	similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, travel trailer
9	parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative
10	adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or
11	transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are
12	awaiting foster care placement.
13	(b) Children and youths who have a primary nighttime
14	residence that is a public or private place not designed for
15	or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for
16	human beings.
17	(c) Children and youths who are living in cars, parks,
18	public spaces, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or
19	similar settings.
20	(d) Migratory children who are living in circumstances
21	described in paragraphs (a)-(c).
22	(12) "Homeless child" means:
23	(a) One who lacks a fixed, regular nighttime
24	residence ;
25	(b) One who has a primary nighttime residence that is:
26	1. A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter
27	designed to provide temporary living accommodations, including
28	welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing
29	for the mentally ill;
30	2. An institution that provides a temporary residence
31	for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or 14
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1 A public or private place not designed for, or 2 ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human 3 beings; or 4 (c) One who temporarily resides with an adult other 5 than his or her parent because the parent is suffering б financial hardship. 7 A child who is imprisoned, detained, or in the custody of the 8 9 state pursuant to a state or federal law is not a homeless 10 child. 11 Section 7. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) and paragraph (g) of subsection (4) of section 1003.21, Florida 12 13 Statutes, are amended to read: 1003.21 School attendance.--14 15 (1)(f) Children and youths who are experiencing 16 homelessness Homeless children, as defined in s. 1003.01, must 17 have access to a free public education and must be admitted to 18 school in the school district in which they or their families 19 live. School districts shall assist such homeless children to 20 21 meet the requirements of subsection (4) and s. 1003.22, as 22 well as local requirements for documentation. (4) Before admitting a child to kindergarten, the 23 24 principal shall require evidence that the child has attained 25 the age at which he or she should be admitted in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph (1)(a)2. The district 26 school superintendent may require evidence of the age of any 27 child whom he or she believes to be within the limits of 28 29 compulsory attendance as provided for by law. If the first prescribed evidence is not available, the next evidence 30 obtainable in the order set forth below shall be accepted: 8:51 AM 04/24/07 s2824c1d-ca12-s01

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1 If none of these evidences can be produced, an affidavit of age sworn to by the parent, accompanied by a 2 certificate of age signed by a public health officer or by a 3 public school physician, or, if neither of these is available in the county, by a licensed practicing physician designated 5 by the district school board, which certificate states that 7 the health officer or physician has examined the child and believes that the age as stated in the affidavit is 8 substantially correct. Children and youths who are 10 experiencing homelessness A homeless child, as defined in s. 11 1003.01, shall be given temporary exemption from this section for 30 school days. 12 13 Section 8. Subsection (1) and paragraph (e) of subsection (5) of section 1003.22, Florida Statutes, are 14 amended to read: 15 16 1003.22 School-entry health examinations; immunization against communicable diseases; exemptions; duties of 17 Department of Health. --18 (1) Each district school board and the governing 19 authority of each private school shall require that each child 20 who is entitled to admittance to kindergarten, or is entitled 21 22 to any other initial entrance into a public or private school in this state, present a certification of a school-entry 23 2.4 health examination performed within 1 year prior to enrollment in school. Each district school board, and the governing 25 authority of each private school, may establish a policy that 26 permits a student up to 30 school days to present a 27 certification of a school-entry health examination. Children 28 29 and youths who are experiencing homelessness A homeless child, as defined in s. 1003.01, shall be given a temporary exemption 30 for 30 school days. Any district school board that establishes 04/24/07 s2824c1d-ca12-s01 8:51 AM

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such a policy shall include provisions in its local school health services plan to assist students in obtaining the health examinations. However, any child shall be exempt from 3 the requirement of a health examination upon written request of the parent of the child stating objections to the 5 examination on religious grounds. 6

- (5) The provisions of this section shall not apply if:
- (e) An authorized school official issues a temporary exemption, for a period not to exceed 30 school days, to permit a student who transfers into a new county to attend 11 class until his or her records can be obtained. Children and youths who are experiencing homelessness A homeless child, as 12 13 defined in s. 1003.01, shall be given a temporary exemption for 30 school days. The public school health nurse or 14 15 authorized private school official is responsible for followup of each such student until proper documentation or 16 immunizations are obtained. An exemption for 30 days may be 17 issued for a student who enters a juvenile justice program to 18 19 permit the student to attend class until his or her records can be obtained or until the immunizations can be obtained. An authorized juvenile justice official is responsible for 21 22 followup of each student who enters a juvenile justice program 23 until proper documentation or immunizations are obtained.

Section 9. The sum of \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and Family Services for the purposes of implementing section 420.628, Florida Statutes, during the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Section 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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1 ======= T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ========= And the title is amended as follows: 2 3 Delete everything before the enacting clause 4 5 and insert: б A bill to be entitled 7 An act relating to homelessness; amending s. 420.507, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; 8 9 amending s. 420.621, F.S.; conforming a 10 cross-reference; revising, providing, and 11 deleting definitions; amending s. 420.622, F.S.; increasing and revising membership on the 12 13 Council on Homelessness; removing a member from an obsolete organization; correcting the name 14 15 of a member organization on the council; revising the date of an annual report; creating 16 s. 420.6275, F.S.; creating the Housing First 17 program; providing legislative findings and 18 19 intent; providing methodology; providing components of the program; creating s. 420.628, 20 21 F.S.; providing legislative findings and 22 intent; creating a 3-year Youth Housing First Continuum Pilot Program; providing eligibility 23 2.4 requirements for the pilot program; providing for the design of the pilot program; requiring 25 Connected by 25 in Hillsborough County to 26 provide administrative support; providing 27 Connected by 25 with specified duties; 28 29 providing reporting requirements; amending s. 1003.01, F.S.; revising a definition; amending 30 31 ss. 1003.21 and 1003.22, F.S.; conforming 04/24/07 s2824c1d-ca12-s01 8:51 AM

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