

By Senator Dockery

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to adult transition services; amending ss.  
3 409.145 and 409.1451, F.S.; clarifying that a child in the  
4 juvenile justice system is eligible for services provided  
5 by the Department of Children and Family Services;  
6 amending s. 985.03, F.S.; defining the term "adult  
7 transition services"; creating s. 985.626, F.S.; providing  
8 legislative intent; requiring the Department of Juvenile  
9 Justice to provide adult transition services to certain  
10 children in their custody or care; requiring an assessment  
11 and adult transition plan; specifying services; requiring  
12 adult transitions services to be coordinating with similar  
13 services offered by other agencies; amending ss. 984.05  
14 and 985.721, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing  
15 an effective date.

16  
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18  
19 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 409.145, Florida  
20 Statutes, is amended to read:

21 409.145 Care of children.--

22 (2) The following dependent children shall be subject to  
23 the protection, care, guidance, and supervision of the department  
24 or any duly licensed public or private agency:

25 (a) Any child who has been temporarily or permanently taken  
26 from the custody of the parents, custodians, or guardians in  
27 accordance with those provisions in chapter 39 that relate to  
28 dependent children.

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29 (b) Any child who is in need of the protective supervision  
30 of the department as determined by intake or by the court in  
31 accordance with those provisions of chapter 39 that relate to  
32 dependent children.

33 (c) Any child who is voluntarily placed, with the written  
34 consent of the parents or guardians, in the department's foster  
35 care program or the foster care program of a licensed private  
36 agency.

37  
38 This includes a child who is or has been under the custody,  
39 supervision, or care of the Department of Juvenile Justice and  
40 who otherwise falls into one of the categories provided in this  
41 subsection.

42 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 409.1451, Florida  
43 Statutes, is amended to read:

44 409.1451 Independent living transition services.--

45 (2) ELIGIBILITY.--

46 (a) The department shall serve children who have reached 13  
47 years of age but are not yet 18 years of age and who are in  
48 foster care by providing services pursuant to subsection (4).

49 This includes children who are or were under the custody,  
50 supervision, or care of the Department of Juvenile Justice and  
51 who otherwise meet the requirements of this paragraph. Children  
52 to be served must meet the eligibility requirements set forth for  
53 specific services as provided in this section.

54 (b) The department shall serve young adults who have  
55 reached 18 years of age but are not yet 23 years of age and who  
56 were in foster care when they turned 18 years of age or, after  
57 reaching 16 years of age, were adopted from foster care or placed

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58 | with a court-approved dependency guardian and have spent a  
59 | minimum of 6 months in foster care within the 12 months  
60 | immediately preceding such placement or adoption, by providing  
61 | services pursuant to subsection (5). This includes young adults  
62 | who are or were under the custody, supervision, or care of the  
63 | Department of Juvenile Justice and who otherwise meet the  
64 | requirements of this paragraph. Young adults to be served must  
65 | meet the eligibility requirements set forth for specific services  
66 | in this section.

67 | Section 3. Present subsections (4) through (57) of section  
68 | 985.03, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)  
69 | through (58), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to  
70 | that section, to read:

71 | 985.03 Definitions.--As used in this chapter, the term:

72 | (4) "Adult transition services" means services and support  
73 | for a youth in the custody or under the supervision of the  
74 | department which has as its objective the acquisition of  
75 | knowledge, skills, and aptitudes that are essential to a  
76 | responsible, self-supporting adult life. The array of services  
77 | provided must include:

78 | (a) An assessment of the youth's ability and readiness for  
79 | adult life.

80 | (b) A plan for the youth to acquire knowledge, information,  
81 | and counseling sufficient to make a successful transition to  
82 | adulthood.

83 | (c) The purchase of services that are proven to be  
84 | effective in achieving the objective of successfully  
85 | transitioning to adulthood.

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86 Section 4. Section 985.626, Florida Statutes, is created to  
87 read:

88 985.626 Adult transition services.--

89 (1) The Legislature finds that older adolescents in the  
90 juvenile justice system are often faced with the need to support  
91 themselves in the very near future. The Legislature further finds  
92 that this can be an overwhelming task particularly if they lack  
93 skills to support themselves by legal means and must overcome the  
94 stigma of being delinquent. The Legislature therefore intends  
95 that the Department of Juvenile Justice provide adult transition  
96 services to assist juveniles in the custody of the department or  
97 under its supervision in acquiring the skills necessary to  
98 successfully transition to responsible adulthood.

99 (2) The department shall provide to children, age 16 or  
100 older, who are currently under the department's custody,  
101 supervision, or care, an opportunity to participate in adult  
102 transition services provided by the department in commitment  
103 programs or in probation or conditional release programs in the  
104 community. To implement this program, the department shall:

105 (a) Conduct an assessment of the child to determine the  
106 child's readiness for adult life, and to determine the skills and  
107 abilities the child needs to be able to live independently and  
108 become self-sufficient.

109 (b) Based on the assessment, develop an adult transition  
110 plan that includes a list of goals, skills, and training needed,  
111 recommended services, available resources, and a proposed  
112 schedule of activities, which shall become a component of the  
113 written case plan required for all youth under the custody,  
114 supervision, or care of the department. The child, the child's

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115 parent or guardian, probation officer, or case manager, as  
116 appropriate, shall be encouraged to participate in the  
117 development of the adult transition plan and to sign and commit  
118 to following the plan.

119 1. The department shall develop procedures to maximize the  
120 participation of parents or guardians in the development of the  
121 plan and the activities and services provided pursuant to this  
122 section. If a parent or guardian is unavailable or uncooperative,  
123 the plan shall be developed without their participation. If the  
124 parent or guardian is available and cooperative, the plan must  
125 not conflict with the parents right to nurture and train their  
126 child in ways that are within the law and compliant with any  
127 court order.

128 2. The plan must describe the child's current skills and a  
129 plan for acquiring additional identified skills; provide a plan  
130 for acquiring future educational, vocational, and training  
131 skills; describe the child's present financial and budgeting  
132 capabilities and provide a plan for improving resources and  
133 abilities; describe a proposed residence, if applicable; propose  
134 services to be provided by the department and other agencies,  
135 including the type of service and the nature and frequency of  
136 contact; and provide a plan for maintaining or developing  
137 relationships with his or her family, other adults, friends, and  
138 the community, as appropriate.

139 (c) Provide adult transition services that may include life  
140 skills training, including training to develop banking and  
141 budgeting skills, time management or organizational skills,  
142 interviewing and career planning skills, educational support,  
143 employment training; personal health management, and parenting

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144 skills, and counseling. If possible, services shall be provided  
145 before the child's 18th birthday.

146 1. Children receiving these services should also be  
147 provided with information related to social security insurance  
148 benefits and public assistance.

149 2. Services may include residential services and assistance  
150 that allows the child to live independently of the daily care and  
151 supervision of an adult in a setting that is not required to be  
152 licensed under s. 409.175. A child under the care or supervision  
153 of the department who has reached 16 years of age but is not yet  
154 19 years of age is eligible for such services if he or she is not  
155 a danger to the public safety and is able to demonstrate  
156 minimally sufficient skill and aptitude for living with decreased  
157 adult supervision, as determined by the department, using  
158 established procedures and assessments.

159 (3) The department may contract for the provision of  
160 services under this section.

161 (4) Adult transition services delivered under this section  
162 shall be coordinated with the delivery of similar services  
163 available from the Department of Children and Family Services  
164 pursuant to s. 409.1451 and from other public or private  
165 agencies. Court-ordered commitment or probation with the  
166 department is not a barrier to accessing services otherwise  
167 available to children who qualify under s. 409.145.

168 Section 5. Section 984.05, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
169 read:

170 984.05 Rules relating to habitual truants; adoption by  
171 State Board of Education and Department of Juvenile Justice.--The  
172 Department of Juvenile Justice and the State Board of Education

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173 shall work together on the development of, and shall adopt, rules  
174 as necessary for administering ~~the implementation of~~ ss.  
175 984.03(27), 985.03(26) ~~985.03(25)~~, and 1003.27.

176 Section 6. Subsection (2) of section 985.721, Florida  
177 Statutes, is amended to read:

178 985.721 Escapes from secure detention or residential  
179 commitment facility.--An escape from:

180 (2) Any residential commitment facility described in s.  
181 985.03(45) ~~s. 985.03(44)~~, maintained for the custody, treatment,  
182 punishment, or rehabilitation of children found to have committed  
183 delinquent acts or violations of law; or

184  
185 constitutes escape within the intent and meaning of s. 944.40 and  
186 is a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s.  
187 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

188 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.