

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

[2016h0599.hms]

BILL: Cs/CS/HB 599, 1st. Eng.
INTRODUCER: Representative Combee
SUBJECT: Child Welfare
DATE: March 9, 2016

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1- 379759

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

The amendment does the following:

- Provides an additional requirement for the quarterly report submitted by the critical incident response team advisory committee.
- Revises terminology in multiple sections of statute to better reflect the safety methodology being implemented by DCF for investigations of child abuse.
- Adds new requirements new relating to the participation of a child in the case planning process to mirror federal law.
- Clarifies that a transition plan must be approved by the court before the child's 18th birthday.
- Requires CBC lead agencies to have a full array of services for children and requires DCF to annually evaluate service array adequacies.
- Requires DCF to ensure that the required array of services are available.
- Requires the development of a quality rating system for group homes and foster homes.
- Adds new requirements and procedures related to the Relative Caregiver Program.
- Repeals multiples outdated sections of statute.