



792830

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: FAV	.	
10/22/2015	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs (Detert) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment

Delete lines 1010 - 1043
and insert:

(e) “Residential group care” means a 24-hour, live-in environment that provides supervision, care, and services to meet the physical, emotional, social, and life skills needs of children served by the dependency system. Services may either be provided by residential group care staff who are qualified to perform the needed service, or a community-based service



792830

11 provider with clinical expertise, credentials, and training to
12 provide services to the children being served.

13 (3) DEVELOPMENT OF CONTINUUM.—The department, in
14 collaboration with the Florida Institute for Child Welfare, the
15 Quality Parenting Initiative and the Florida Coalition for
16 Children, shall develop a continuum of care for the placement of
17 children in care, including but not limited to, both family
18 foster care and residential group care. To implement the
19 continuum of care, the department must by December 31, 2017:

20 1. Establish levels of care in the continuum that are
21 clearly and concisely defined with the qualifying criteria for
22 placement for each level identified.

23 2. Revise licensure standards and rules to reflect both the
24 supports and services provided by a placement at each level of
25 care as well as the complexity of the needs of the children
26 served. This must include attention to the need for a particular
27 category of provider in a community before licensure can be
28 considered; quality standards of operation that must be met by
29 all licensed providers; numbers and qualifications of staff that
30 are adequate to effectively serve children with the issues the
31 facility seeks to serve; and a well-defined process tied to
32 specific criteria that lead to licensure suspension or
33 revocation.

34 3. Develop policies and procedures necessary to ensure
35 that placement in any level of care is appropriate for each
36 specific child, is determined by the required assessments and
37 staffings, and lasts only as long as necessary to resolve the
38 issue that required the placement.

39 4. Develop a plan to recruit, train and retain specialized



792830

40 family foster homes for pregnant and parenting children and
41 young adults. These family foster homes must be designed to
42 provide an out-of-home placement option for young parents and
43 their children to enable them to live in the same family foster
44 home while caring for the child and working towards independent
45 care of the child.

46 5. Develop, in collaboration with the Department of
47 Juvenile Justice, a plan to develop specialized out-of home
48 placements for children who are involved with both the
49 dependency and the juvenile justice systems.

50