

By Senator Steube

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to trauma-informed services for  
3           children; amending s. 394.495, F.S.; prohibiting a  
4           child who has suffered sexual exploitation from being  
5           placed in a generic shelter setting when safe-harbor  
6           or trauma-informed housing is not available; requiring  
7           the Department of Children and Families to assemble a  
8           team of specified experts to determine the safest  
9           placement for the child; providing criteria for  
10          placement; providing an effective date.

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12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14           Section 1. Paragraph (p) of subsection (4) of section  
15   394.495, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16           394.495 Child and adolescent mental health system of care;  
17   programs and services.-

18           (4) The array of services may include, but is not limited  
19   to:

20           (p) Trauma-informed services for children who have suffered  
21   sexual exploitation as defined in s. 39.01(70)(g). If there is  
22   no safe-harbor or trauma-informed housing available, the child  
23   may not be placed in a generic shelter setting. The department  
24   shall assemble a team consisting of at least two experts in  
25   anti-trafficking and sexual violence and at least one licensed  
26   psychiatrist or psychologist who has experience working with  
27   children who have suffered sexual exploitation. The team shall  
28   determine the safest placement for the child until an  
29   appropriate out-of-home care placement option becomes available.  
30   The child's placement must match his or her individual needs,  
31   avoid revictimization of the child, and provide safety.

32           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.