

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
 21 suffered sexual exploitation as defined in s. 39.01(71)(g). If
 22 there is no safe-harbor or trauma-informed housing available,
 23 the child may not be placed in a generic shelter setting. The
 24 department shall assemble a team consisting of at least two
 25 experts in anti-trafficking and sexual violence and at least one

HB 487

2018

26 | licensed psychiatrist or psychologist who has experience working
27 | with children who have suffered sexual exploitation. The team
28 | shall 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, 2018.