

By Senator Steube

23-00896-18

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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(71)(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.

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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.