

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate Comm: RCS 03/25/2019 House

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The Committee on Health Policy (Albritton) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (37) of section 39.01, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.01 Definitions.-When used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

9 (37) "Institutional child abuse or neglect" means10 situations of known or suspected child abuse or neglect in which

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Florida Senate - 2019 Bill No. SB 1650

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11	the person allegedly perpetrating the child abuse or neglect is
12	an employee of a <u>public or</u> private school, public or private day
13	care center, residential home, institution, facility, or agency
14	or any other person at such institution responsible for the
15	child's care as defined in this section subsection (54).
16	Section 2. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section
17	39.4015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
18	39.4015 Family finding
19	(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:
20	(d) "Fictive kin" means an individual who is unrelated to
21	the child by either birth or marriage, but has such a close
22	emotional relationship with the child that he or she may be
23	considered part of the family.
24	Section 3. Paragraph (h) of subsection (8) of section
25	39.402, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
26	39.402 Placement in a shelter
27	(8)
28	(h) The order for placement of a child in shelter care must
29	identify the parties present at the hearing and must contain
30	written findings:
31	1. That placement in shelter care is necessary based on the
32	criteria in subsections (1) and (2).
33	2. That placement in shelter care is in the best interest
34	of the child.
35	3. That continuation of the child in the home is contrary
36	to the welfare of the child because the home situation presents
37	a substantial and immediate danger to the child's physical,
38	mental, or emotional health or safety which cannot be mitigated
39	by the provision of preventive services.

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40 4. That based upon the allegations of the petition for placement in shelter care, there is probable cause to believe 41 42 that the child is dependent or that the court needs additional 43 time, which may not exceed 72 hours, in which to obtain and review documents pertaining to the family in order to 44 appropriately determine the risk to the child. 45 46 5. That the department has made reasonable efforts to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the 47 48 home. A finding of reasonable effort by the department to 49 prevent or eliminate the need for removal may be made and the 50 department is deemed to have made reasonable efforts to prevent 51 or eliminate the need for removal if: 52 a. The first contact of the department with the family 53 occurs during an emergency; 54 b. The appraisal of the home situation by the department 55 indicates that the home situation presents a substantial and 56 immediate danger to the child's physical, mental, or emotional 57 health or safety which cannot be mitigated by the provision of 58 preventive services; 59 c. The child cannot safely remain at home, either because 60 there are no preventive services that can ensure the health and 61 safety of the child or because, even with appropriate and 62 available services being provided, the health and safety of the child cannot be ensured; or 63 64

d. The parent or legal custodian is alleged to have committed any of the acts listed as grounds for expedited termination of parental rights in s. 39.806(1)(f)-(i).

6. That the department has made reasonable efforts to keep siblings together if they are removed and placed in out-of-home

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69 care unless such placement is not in the best interest of each 70 child. It is preferred that siblings be kept together in a foster home, if available. Other reasonable efforts shall 71 72 include short-term placement in a group home with the ability to 73 accommodate sibling groups if such a placement is available. The 74 department shall report to the court its efforts to place 75 siblings together unless the court finds that such placement is 76 not in the best interest of a child or his or her sibling.

7. That the court notified the parents, relatives that are providing out-of-home care for the child, or legal custodians of the time, date, and location of the next dependency hearing and of the importance of the active participation of the parents, relatives that are providing out-of-home care for the child, or legal custodians in all proceedings and hearings.

83 8. That the court notified the parents or legal custodians 84 of their right to counsel to represent them at the shelter 85 hearing and at each subsequent hearing or proceeding, and the 86 right of the parents to appointed counsel, pursuant to the 87 procedures set forth in s. 39.013.

9. That the court notified relatives who are providing outof-home care for a child as a result of the shelter petition being granted that they have the right to attend all subsequent hearings, to submit reports to the court, and to speak to the court regarding the child, if they so desire.

10. That the department has placement and care responsibility for any child who is not placed in the care of a parent at the conclusion of the shelter hearing.

Section 4. Subsection (3) and paragraphs (g), (h), and (i) of subsection (6) of section 39.407, Florida Statutes, are



98 amended to read:

99 39.407 Medical, psychiatric, and psychological examination 100 and treatment of child; physical, mental, or substance abuse 101 examination of person with or requesting child custody.-

102 (3) (a)1. Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (b)1. 103 or paragraph (e), before the department provides psychotropic 104 medications to a child in its custody, the prescribing physician 105 or the advanced practice registered nurse whose specialty is psychiatric nursing, as defined in chapter 394, and who is given 106 107 prescribing authority pursuant to chapter 464 shall attempt to 108 obtain express and informed consent, as defined in s. 109 394.455(15) and as described in s. 394.459(3)(a), from the 110 child's parent or legal guardian. The department must take steps 111 necessary to facilitate the inclusion of the parent in the 112 child's consultation with the physician or advanced practice registered nurse. However, if the parental rights of the parent 113 114 have been terminated, the parent's location or identity is 115 unknown or cannot reasonably be ascertained, or the parent 116 declines to give express and informed consent, the department 117 may, after consultation with the prescribing physician or 118 advanced practice registered nurse, seek court authorization to 119 provide the psychotropic medications to the child. Unless 120 parental rights have been terminated and if it is possible to do 121 so, the department shall continue to involve the parent in the 122 decisionmaking process regarding the provision of psychotropic 123 medications. If, at any time, a parent whose parental rights 124 have not been terminated provides express and informed consent 125 to the provision of a psychotropic medication, the requirements of this section that the department seek court authorization do 126

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127 not apply to that medication until such time as the parent no 128 longer consents.

129 2. Any time the department seeks a medical evaluation to 130 determine the need to initiate or continue a psychotropic 131 medication for a child, the department must provide to the 132 evaluating physician <u>or advanced practice registered nurse</u> all 133 pertinent medical information known to the department concerning 134 that child.

(b)1. If a child who is removed from the home under s. 135 136 39.401 is receiving prescribed psychotropic medication at the time of removal and parental authorization to continue providing 137 138 the medication cannot be obtained, the department may take 139 possession of the remaining medication and may continue to 140 provide the medication as prescribed until the shelter hearing, 141 if it is determined that the medication is a current prescription for that child and the medication is in its 142 143 original container.

2. If the department continues to provide the psychotropic 144 145 medication to a child when parental authorization cannot be 146 obtained, the department shall notify the parent or legal 147 guardian as soon as possible that the medication is being provided to the child as provided in subparagraph 1. The child's 148 149 official departmental record must include the reason parental 150 authorization was not initially obtained and an explanation of 151 why the medication is necessary for the child's well-being.

152 3. If the department is advised by a physician licensed 153 under chapter 458 or chapter 459 <u>or an advanced practice</u> 154 <u>registered nurse whose specialty is psychiatric nursing, as</u> 155 <u>defined in chapter 394, and who is given prescribing authority</u>

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156 pursuant to chapter 464 that the child should continue the 157 psychotropic medication and parental authorization has not been 158 obtained, the department shall request court authorization at 159 the shelter hearing to continue to provide the psychotropic 160 medication and shall provide to the court any information in its 161 possession in support of the request. Any authorization granted 162 at the shelter hearing may extend only until the arraignment 163 hearing on the petition for adjudication of dependency or 28 164 days following the date of removal, whichever occurs sooner.

165 4. Before filing the dependency petition, the department 166 shall ensure that the child is evaluated by a physician licensed 167 under chapter 458 or chapter 459 or an advanced practice 168 registered nurse whose specialty is psychiatric nursing, as 169 defined in chapter 394, and who is given prescribing authority 170 pursuant to chapter 464 to determine whether it is appropriate 171 to continue the psychotropic medication. If, as a result of the 172 evaluation, the department seeks court authorization to continue 173 the psychotropic medication, a motion for such continued 174 authorization shall be filed at the same time as the dependency 175 petition, within 21 days after the shelter hearing.

176 (c) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (e), the 177 department must file a motion seeking the court's authorization 178 to initially provide or continue to provide psychotropic 179 medication to a child in its legal custody. The motion must be 180 supported by a written report prepared by the department which 181 describes the efforts made to enable the prescribing physician 182 or advanced practice registered nurse whose specialty is 183 psychiatric nursing, as defined in chapter 394, and who is given prescribing authority pursuant to chapter 464 to obtain express 184

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185 and informed consent for providing the medication to the child 186 and other treatments considered or recommended for the child. In 187 addition, the motion must be supported by the prescribing 188 physician's <u>or advanced practice registered nurse's</u> signed 189 medical report providing:

190 1. The name of the child, the name and range of the dosage 191 of the psychotropic medication, and that there is a need to 192 prescribe psychotropic medication to the child based upon a 193 diagnosed condition for which such medication is being 194 prescribed.

2. A statement indicating that the physician has reviewed all medical information concerning the child which has been provided.

3. A statement indicating that the psychotropic medication, at its prescribed dosage, is appropriate for treating the child's diagnosed medical condition, as well as the behaviors and symptoms the medication, at its prescribed dosage, is expected to address.

4. An explanation of the nature and purpose of the treatment; the recognized side effects, risks, and contraindications of the medication; drug-interaction precautions; the possible effects of stopping the medication; and how the treatment will be monitored, followed by a statement indicating that this explanation was provided to the child if age appropriate and to the child's caregiver.

5. Documentation addressing whether the psychotropic medication will replace or supplement any other currently prescribed medications or treatments; the length of time the child is expected to be taking the medication; and any



additional medical, mental health, behavioral, counseling, or other services that the prescribing physician <u>or advanced</u> practice registered nurse recommends.

217 (d)1. The department must notify all parties of the 218 proposed action taken under paragraph (c) in writing or by 219 whatever other method best ensures that all parties receive 220 notification of the proposed action within 48 hours after the 221 motion is filed. If any party objects to the department's 2.2.2 motion, that party shall file the objection within 2 working 223 days after being notified of the department's motion. If any 224 party files an objection to the authorization of the proposed 225 psychotropic medication, the court shall hold a hearing as soon 226 as possible before authorizing the department to initially 227 provide or to continue providing psychotropic medication to a 228 child in the legal custody of the department. At such hearing 229 and notwithstanding s. 90.803, the medical report described in 230 paragraph (c) is admissible in evidence. The prescribing 231 physician or advanced practice registered nurse whose specialty 232 is psychiatric nursing, as defined in chapter 394, and who is 233 given prescribing authority pursuant to chapter 464 need not 234 attend the hearing or testify unless the court specifically 235 orders such attendance or testimony, or a party subpoenas the 236 physician or advanced practice registered nurse to attend the 237 hearing or provide testimony. If, after considering any 238 testimony received, the court finds that the department's motion 239 and the physician's or advanced practice registered nurse's 240 medical report meet the requirements of this subsection and that 241 it is in the child's best interests, the court may order that the department provide or continue to provide the psychotropic 242

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243 medication to the child without additional testimony or 244 evidence. At any hearing held under this paragraph, the court 245 shall further inquire of the department as to whether additional 246 medical, mental health, behavioral, counseling, or other 247 services are being provided to the child by the department which 248 the prescribing physician or advanced practice registered nurse 249 considers to be necessary or beneficial in treating the child's 250 medical condition and which the physician or advanced practice 251 registered nurse recommends or expects to provide to the child in concert with the medication. The court may order additional 252 253 medical consultation, including consultation with the MedConsult 254 line at the University of Florida, if available, or require the 255 department to obtain a second opinion within a reasonable 256 timeframe as established by the court, not to exceed 21 calendar 257 days, after such order based upon consideration of the best 258 interests of the child. The department must make a referral for 259 an appointment for a second opinion with a physician within 1 260 working day. The court may not order the discontinuation of 261 prescribed psychotropic medication if such order is contrary to 262 the decision of the prescribing physician or advanced practice 263 registered nurse unless the court first obtains an opinion from 264 a licensed psychiatrist, if available, or, if not available, a 265 physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459, stating that more likely than not, discontinuing the medication would 2.66 267 not cause significant harm to the child. If, however, the 268 prescribing psychiatrist specializes in mental health care for 269 children and adolescents, the court may not order the 270 discontinuation of prescribed psychotropic medication unless the required opinion is also from a psychiatrist who specializes in 271

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272 mental health care for children and adolescents. The court may 273 also order the discontinuation of prescribed psychotropic 274 medication if a child's treating physician, licensed under 275 chapter 458 or chapter 459, states that continuing the 276 prescribed psychotropic medication would cause significant harm 277 to the child due to a diagnosed nonpsychiatric medical 278 condition.

2. The burden of proof at any hearing held under this paragraph shall be by a preponderance of the evidence.

281 (e)1. If the child's prescribing physician or advanced 282 practice registered nurse whose specialty is psychiatric 283 nursing, as defined in chapter 394, and who is given prescribing 284 authority pursuant to chapter 464 certifies in the signed 285 medical report required in paragraph (c) that delay in providing 286 a prescribed psychotropic medication would more likely than not 287 cause significant harm to the child, the medication may be 288 provided in advance of the issuance of a court order. In such 289 event, the medical report must provide the specific reasons why 290 the child may experience significant harm and the nature and the 291 extent of the potential harm. The department must submit a 292 motion seeking continuation of the medication and the 293 physician's medical report to the court, the child's guardian ad 294 litem, and all other parties within 3 working days after the department commences providing the medication to the child. The 295 296 department shall seek the order at the next regularly scheduled 297 court hearing required under this chapter, or within 30 days 298 after the date of the prescription, whichever occurs sooner. If 299 any party objects to the department's motion, the court shall 300 hold a hearing within 7 days.

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2. Psychotropic medications may be administered in advance of a court order in hospitals, crisis stabilization units, and in statewide inpatient psychiatric programs. Within 3 working days after the medication is begun, the department must seek court authorization as described in paragraph (c).

306 (f)1. The department shall fully inform the court of the 307 child's medical and behavioral status as part of the social 308 services report prepared for each judicial review hearing held 309 for a child for whom psychotropic medication has been prescribed 310 or provided under this subsection. As a part of the information provided to the court, the department shall furnish copies of 311 312 all pertinent medical records concerning the child which have 313 been generated since the previous hearing. On its own motion or 314 on good cause shown by any party, including any guardian ad 315 litem, attorney, or attorney ad litem who has been appointed to 316 represent the child or the child's interests, the court may 317 review the status more frequently than required in this 318 subsection.

2. The court may, in the best interests of the child, order the department to obtain a medical opinion addressing whether 321 the continued use of the medication under the circumstances is 322 safe and medically appropriate.

(g) The department shall adopt rules to ensure that 323 324 children receive timely access to clinically appropriate 325 psychotropic medications. These rules must include, but need not 326 be limited to, the process for determining which adjunctive 327 services are needed, the uniform process for facilitating the 328 prescribing physician's or advanced practice registered nurse's 329 ability to obtain the express and informed consent of a child's



330 parent or guardian, the procedures for obtaining court 331 authorization for the provision of a psychotropic medication, the frequency of medical monitoring and reporting on the status 332 333 of the child to the court, how the child's parents will be 334 involved in the treatment-planning process if their parental 335 rights have not been terminated, and how caretakers are to be 336 provided information contained in the physician's or advanced 337 practice registered nurse's signed medical report. The rules 338 must also include uniform forms to be used in requesting court 339 authorization for the use of a psychotropic medication and 340 provide for the integration of each child's treatment plan and 341 case plan. The department must begin the formal rulemaking 342 process within 90 days after the effective date of this act.

343 (6) Children who are in the legal custody of the department 344 may be placed by the department, without prior approval of the 345 court, in a residential treatment center licensed under s. 346 394.875 or a hospital licensed under chapter 395 for residential 347 mental health treatment only pursuant to this section or may be 348 placed by the court in accordance with an order of involuntary 349 examination or involuntary placement entered pursuant to s. 350 394.463 or s. 394.467. All children placed in a residential 351 treatment program under this subsection must have a quardian ad 352 litem appointed.

(g)1. The department must submit, at the beginning of each month, to the court having jurisdiction over the child, a written report regarding the child's progress toward achieving the goals specified in the individualized plan of treatment.

2. The court must conduct a hearing to review the status of the child's residential treatment plan no later than 60 days 3

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359 months after the child's admission to the residential treatment 360 program. An independent review of the child's progress toward 361 achieving the goals and objectives of the treatment plan must be 362 completed by a qualified evaluator and submitted to the court 363 before its 60-day 3-month review.

364 3. For any child in residential treatment at the time a 365 judicial review is held pursuant to s. 39.701, the child's 366 continued placement in residential treatment must be a subject 367 of the judicial review.

368 4. If at any time the court determines that the child is 369 not suitable for continued residential treatment, the court 370 shall order the department to place the child in the least 371 restrictive setting that is best suited to meet his or her 372 needs.

(h) After the initial <u>60-day</u> 3-month review, the court must conduct a review of the child's residential treatment plan every 90 days.

376 (i) The department must adopt rules for implementing 377 timeframes for the completion of suitability assessments by 378 qualified evaluators and a procedure that includes timeframes 379 for completing the 60-day 3-month independent review by the 380 qualified evaluators of the child's progress toward achieving 381 the goals and objectives of the treatment plan which review must 382 be submitted to the court. The Agency for Health Care 383 Administration must adopt rules for the registration of 384 qualified evaluators, the procedure for selecting the evaluators 385 to conduct the reviews required under this section, and a 386 reasonable, cost-efficient fee schedule for qualified 387 evaluators.

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388	Section 5. Present paragraphs (a) through (h) of subsection
389	(2) of section 39.5085, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
390	paragraphs (b) through (i), respectively, paragraph (a) of
391	subsection (1) is amended, and a new paragraph (a) is added to
392	subsection (2) of that section, to read:
393	39.5085 Relative Caregiver Program.—
394	(1) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this
395	section to:
396	(a) Provide for the establishment of procedures and
397	protocols that serve to advance the continued safety of children
398	by acknowledging the valued resource uniquely available through
399	grandparents, relatives of children, and specified nonrelatives
400	of children pursuant to subparagraph <u>(2)(b)3.</u> (2)(a)3.
401	(2)
402	(a) Relatives or nonrelatives who are caring for a child
403	and do not meet the eligibility requirements for Level I
404	licensure under s. 409.175 may apply for the Relative Caregiver
405	Program.
406	Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
407	39.5086, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
408	39.5086 Kinship navigator programs.—
409	(1) DEFINITIONSAs used in this section, the term:
410	(a) "Fictive kin" has the same meaning as provided in s.
411	39.4015(2)(d).
412	Section 7. Subsections (6) and (10) of section 39.6225,
413	Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
414	39.6225 Guardianship Assistance Program
415	(6) Guardianship assistance benefits shall be terminated if
416	the guardian is no longer providing support to the child. For

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417	purposes of this subsection, a guardian is considered to no
418	longer be providing support to the child if:
419	(a) The child is absent from the home of the quardian for a
420	period of at least 60 consecutive calendar days, unless the
421	child:
422	1. Is absent due to medical care, school attendance,
423	runaway status, or detention in a Department of Juvenile Justice
424	facility; and
425	2. Continues to be under the care and custody of the
426	guardian.
427	(b) The court modifies the placement of the child and the
428	guardian is no longer eligible to receive guardianship
429	assistance benefits.
430	(10) The case plan must describe the following for each
431	child with a permanency goal of permanent guardianship in which
432	the guardian is <u>pursuing</u> in receipt of guardianship assistance
433	payments:
434	(a) The manner in which the child meets program eligibility
435	requirements.
436	(b) The manner in which the department determined that
437	reunification or adoption is not appropriate.
438	(c) Efforts to discuss adoption with the child's permanent
439	guardian.
440	(d) Efforts to discuss guardianship assistance with the
441	child's parent or the reasons why efforts were not made.
442	(e) The reasons why a permanent placement with the
443	prospective guardian is in the best interest of the child.
444	(f) The reasons why the child is separated from his or her
445	siblings during placement, if applicable.

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446 (g) Efforts to consult the child, if the child is 14 years 447 of age or older, regarding the permanent guardianship 448 arrangement. 449 Section 8. Subsections (2) and (3), paragraph (a) of 450 subsection (4), and subsection (6) of section 39.6251, Florida 451 Statutes, are amended, and subsection (10) is added to that 452 section, to read: 453 39.6251 Continuing care for young adults.-454 (2) The primary goal for a child in care is permanency. A 455 child who is living in licensed care on his or her 18th birthday 456 and who has not achieved permanency under s. 39.621 is eligible 457 to remain in licensed care under the jurisdiction of the court 458 and in the care of the department. A child is eligible to remain 459 in licensed care if he or she is: 460 (a) Completing secondary education or a program leading to 461 an equivalent credential; 462 (b) Enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary 463 or vocational education; 464 (c) Participating in a program or activity designed to 465 promote or eliminate barriers to employment; 466 (d) Employed for at least 80 hours per month; or (e) Unable to participate in programs or activities listed 467 468 in paragraphs (a)-(d) full time due to a physical, intellectual, emotional, or psychiatric condition that limits participation. 469 470 Any such barrier to participation must be supported by documentation in the child's case file or school or medical 471 472 records of a physical, intellectual, or psychiatric condition 473 that impairs the child's ability to perform one or more life 474 activities.

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476 The young adult must furnish documentation to the department or 477 lead agency of his or her participation in one of the programs 478 or activities listed in paragraphs (a)-(d), or his or her 479 inability to participate in one of the programs or activities as 480 provided in paragraph (e), or authorize the release of his or 481 her records to the department or lead agency.

(3) The permanency goal for a young adult who chooses to remain in care past his or her 18th birthday is to transition to independence from licensed care to independent living.

485 (4) (a) The young adult must reside in a supervised living 486 environment that is approved by the department or a community-487 based care lead agency. The young adult shall live 488 independently, but in an environment in which he or she is 489 provided supervision, case management, and supportive services 490 by the department or lead agency. Such an environment must offer 491 developmentally appropriate freedom and responsibility to 492 prepare the young adult for adulthood. For the purposes of this 493 subsection, a supervised living arrangement may include a 494 licensed foster home, licensed group home, college dormitory, 495 shared housing, apartment, or another housing arrangement if the 496 arrangement is approved by the community-based care lead agency 497 and is acceptable to the young adult, with first choice being a 498 licensed foster home. A young adult may continue to reside with 499 the same licensed foster family or group care provider with whom 500 he or she was residing at the time he or she reached the age of 501 18 years.

502 (6) A young adult who is between the ages of 18 and 21 and 503 who has left care may return to care by applying to the

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504 community-based care lead agency for readmission <u>through the</u> 505 <u>execution of a voluntary placement agreement</u>. The community-506 based care lead agency shall readmit the young adult if he or 507 she continues to meet the eligibility requirements in this 508 section.

(a) The department shall develop a standard procedure and
application packet for readmission to care to be used by all
community-based care lead agencies.

(b) Within 30 days after the young adult has been 512 513 readmitted to care, the community-based care lead agency shall 514 assign a case manager to update the case plan and the transition 515 plan and to arrange for the required services. Updates to the 516 case plan and the transition plan and arrangements for the 517 required services shall be undertaken in consultation with the 518 young adult. The department shall petition the court to 519 reinstate jurisdiction over the young adult. Notwithstanding s. 520 39.013(2), the court shall resume jurisdiction over the young 521 adult if the department establishes that he or she continues to 522 meet the eligibility requirements in this section.

523 (10) The department shall adopt rules to administer this 524 section.

525 Section 9. Paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section 526 39.701, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraphs (f) and (g) 527 are added to subsection (4) of that section, to read: 528 39.701 Judicial review.-

529 (2) REVIEW HEARINGS FOR CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 18 YEARS OF 530 AGE.-

531 (d) Orders.-

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1. Based upon the criteria set forth in paragraph (c) and

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533 the recommended order of the citizen review panel, if any, the 534 court shall determine whether or not the social service agency 535 shall initiate proceedings to have a child declared a dependent 536 child, return the child to the parent, continue the child in 537 out-of-home care for a specified period of time, or initiate 538 termination of parental rights proceedings for subsequent 539 placement in an adoptive home. Amendments to the case plan must 540 be prepared as provided prescribed in s. 39.6013. If the court 541 finds that the prevention or reunification efforts of the 542 department will allow the child to remain safely at home or be 543 safely returned to the home, the court shall allow the child to 544 remain in or return to the home after making a specific finding 545 of fact that the reasons for the creation of the case plan have 546 been remedied to the extent that the child's safety, well-being, 547 and physical, mental, and emotional health will not be 548 endangered.

549 2. The court shall return the child to the custody of his 550 or her the parents at any time it determines that the 551 circumstances which caused the out-of-home placement, and issues 552 subsequently identified, have been remedied to the extent that 553 return of the child to the home with an in-home safety plan 554 prepared or approved by the department that they have 555 substantially complied with the case plan, if the court is 556 satisfied that reunification will not be detrimental to the 557 child's safety, well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional 558 health.

559 3. If, in the opinion of the court, the social service 560 agency has not complied with its obligations as specified in the 561 written case plan, the court may find the social service agency



562 in contempt, shall order the social service agency to submit its 563 plans for compliance with the agreement, and shall require the 564 social service agency to show why the child could not safely be 565 returned to the home of the parents.

566 4. If, at any judicial review, the court finds that the 567 parents have failed to substantially comply with the case plan 568 to the degree that further reunification efforts are without 569 merit and not in the best interest of the child, on its own 570 motion, the court may order the filing of a petition for 571 termination of parental rights, regardless of whether or not the 572 time period as contained in the case plan for substantial 573 compliance has expired.

574 5. Within 6 months after the date that the child was placed 575 in shelter care, the court shall conduct a judicial review 576 hearing to review the child's permanency goal as identified in 577 the case plan. At the hearing the court shall make findings 578 regarding the likelihood of the child's reunification with the 579 parent or legal custodian. In making such findings, the court 580 shall consider the level of the parent or legal custodian's 581 compliance with the case plan and demonstrated change in 582 protective capacities compared to that necessary to achieve 583 timely reunification within 12 months after the removal of the 584 child from the home. The court shall also consider the 585 frequency, duration, manner, and level of engagement of the 586 parent or legal custodian's visitation with the child in 587 compliance with the case plan. If the court makes a written 588 finding that it is not likely that the child will be reunified 589 with the parent or legal custodian within 12 months after the 590 child was removed from the home, the department must file with

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591 the court, and serve on all parties, a motion to amend the case 592 plan under s. 39.6013 and declare that it will use concurrent 593 planning for the case plan. The department must file the motion 594 within 10 business days after receiving the written finding of 595 the court. The department must attach the proposed amended case 596 plan to the motion. If concurrent planning is already being 597 used, the case plan must document the efforts the department is 598 taking to complete the concurrent goal.

599 6. The court may issue a protective order in assistance, or 600 as a condition, of any other order made under this part. In 601 addition to the requirements included in the case plan, the 602 protective order may set forth requirements relating to 603 reasonable conditions of behavior to be observed for a specified 604 period of time by a person or agency who is before the court, + 605 and the order may require any person or agency to make periodic 606 reports to the court containing such information as the court in 607 its discretion may prescribe.

7. If, at any judicial review, the court determines that the child shall remain in out-of-home care in a placement other than with a parent, the court shall order that the department has placement and care responsibility for the child.

(4) REVIEW HEARINGS FOR YOUNG ADULTS IN FOSTER CARE.-During
each period of time that a young adult remains in foster care,
the court shall review the status of the young adult at least
every 6 months and must hold a permanency review hearing at
least annually.

617 (f) If the young adult elects to voluntarily leave extended
 618 foster care for the sole purpose of ending a removal episode and
 619 immediately thereafter executes a voluntary placement agreement

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620 with the department to reenroll in extended foster care, the 621 court shall enter an order finding that the prior removal 622 episode has ended. Under these circumstances, the court 623 maintains jurisdiction and a petition to reinstate jurisdiction 624 as provided in s. 39.6251(6)(b) is not required.

(g)1. When a young adult enters extended foster care by executing a voluntary placement agreement, the court shall enter an order within 180 days after execution of the agreement which determines whether the placement is in the best interest of the young adult. For purposes of this paragraph, a placement may include a licensed foster home, licensed group home, college dormitory, shared housing, apartment, or another housing arrangement, if the arrangement is approved by the communitybased care lead agency and is acceptable to the young adult.

2. When a young adult is in extended foster care, each judicial review order shall provide that the department has placement and care responsibility for the young adult.

3. When a young adult is in extended foster care, the court shall enter an order at least every 12 months that includes a finding of whether the department has made reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan currently in effect.

641 Section 10. Present subsections (9) and (10) of section 642 409.1451, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (10) 643 and (11), respectively, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) is 644 amended, and a new subsection (9) is added to that section, to 645 read:

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(2) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORT.-

409.1451 The Road-to-Independence Program.-

(b) The amount of the financial assistance shall be as

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1. For a young adult who does not remain in foster care and is attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, 652 the amount is \$1,256 monthly.

2. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is attending a postsecondary school, as provided in s. 1009.533, and continues to reside in a licensed foster home, the amount is the established room and board rate for foster parents. This takes the place of the payment provided for in s. 409.145(4).

3. For a young adult who remains in foster care, but temporarily resides away from a licensed foster home for purposes of attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, the amount is \$1,256 monthly. This takes the place of the payment provided for in s. 409.145(4).

4. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, and continues to reside in a licensed group home, the amount is negotiated between the community-based care lead agency and the licensed group home provider.

5. For a young adult who remains in foster care, but temporarily resides away from a licensed group home for purposes of attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, the amount is \$1,256 monthly. This takes the place of a negotiated room and board rate.

6. The amount of the award may be disregarded for purposes of determining the eligibility for, or the amount of, any other federal or federally supported assistance.

676 6.7. A young adult is eligible to receive financial 677 assistance during the months when he or she is enrolled in a

postsecondary educational institution.

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679 (9) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR YOUNG ADULTS RECEIVING SERVICES.-Financial awards to young adults receiving services 680 681 under subsections (2) and (3) and s. 39.6251 may be disregarded 682 for purposes of determining the eligibility for, or the amount 683 of, any other federal or federally supported assistance. 684 Section 11. Paragraphs (e), (j), and (m) of subsection (2), 685 paragraph (b) of subsection (5), paragraph (c) of subsection 686 (6), subsection (7), paragraph (b) of subsection (9), paragraphs 687 (b) and (c) of subsection (12), and paragraphs (b) and (d) of 688 subsection (14) of section 409.175, Florida Statutes, are 689 amended to read: 690 409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential 691 child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies; public 692 records exemption.-693 (2) As used in this section, the term: 694 (e) "Family foster home" means a private residence licensed 695 by the department in which children who are unattended by a 696 parent or legal quardian are provided 24-hour care. The term 697 does not include an adoptive home that has been approved by the 698 department or approved by a licensed child-placing agency for 699 children placed for adoption. 700 (j) "Personnel" means all owners, operators, employees, and 701 volunteers working in a child-placing agency, family foster 702 home, or residential child-caring agency who may be employed by 703 or do volunteer work for a person, corporation, or agency that 704 holds a license as a child-placing agency or a residential 705 child-caring agency, but the term does not include those who do 706 not work on the premises where child care is furnished and have



707 no direct contact with a child or have no contact with a child 708 outside of the presence of the child's parent or quardian. For 709 purposes of screening, the term includes any member, over the 710 age of 12 years, of the family of the owner or operator or any 711 person other than a client, over the age of 12 years, residing 712 with the owner or operator if the agency or family foster home 713 is located in or adjacent to the home of the owner or operator 714 or if the family member of, or person residing with, the owner or operator has any direct contact with the children. Members of 715 716 the family of the owner or operator, or persons residing with 717 the owner or operator, who are between the ages of 12 years and 718 18 years are not required to be fingerprinted, but must be 719 screened for delinquency records. For purposes of screening, the 720 term also includes owners, operators, employees, and volunteers 721 working in summer day camps_{τ} or summer 24-hour camps providing 722 care for children. A volunteer who assists on an intermittent 723 basis for less than 10 hours per month shall not be included in 724 the term "personnel" for the purposes of screening if a person 725 who meets the screening requirement of this section is always 726 present and has the volunteer in his or her line of sight.

(m) "Screening" means the act of assessing the background of personnel <u>or level II through level V family foster homes</u> and includes, but is not limited to, employment history checks as provided in chapter 435, using the level 2 standards for screening set forth in that chapter.

(5) The department shall adopt and amend rules for the levels of licensed care associated with the licensure of family foster homes, residential child-caring agencies, and childplacing agencies. The rules may include criteria to approve



736 waivers to licensing requirements when applying for a child-737 specific license.

(b) The requirements for licensure and operation of family
foster homes, residential child-caring agencies, and childplacing agencies shall include:

1. The operation, conduct, and maintenance of these homes and agencies and the responsibility which they assume for children served and the evidence of need for that service.

2. The provision of food, clothing, educational opportunities, services, equipment, and individual supplies to assure the healthy physical, emotional, and mental development of the children served.

3. The appropriateness, safety, cleanliness, and general adequacy of the premises, including fire prevention and health standards, to provide for the physical comfort, care, and wellbeing of the children served.

4. The ratio of staff to children required to provide adequate care and supervision of the children served and, in the case of <u>family</u> foster homes, the maximum number of children in the home.

5. The good moral character based upon screening, education, training, and experience requirements for personnel and family foster homes.

6. The department may grant exemptions from disqualification from working with children or the developmentally disabled as provided in s. 435.07.

7. The provision of preservice and inservice training for all foster parents and agency staff.

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8. Satisfactory evidence of financial ability to provide

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765 care for the children in compliance with licensing requirements.
766 9. The maintenance by the agency of records pertaining to
767 admission, progress, health, and discharge of children served,
768 including written case plans and reports to the department.

10. The provision for parental involvement to encourage preservation and strengthening of a child's relationship with the family.

11. The transportation safety of children served.

12. The provisions for safeguarding the cultural, religious, and ethnic values of a child.

13. Provisions to safeguard the legal rights of children served.

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778 (c) A licensed family foster home, child-placing agency, or 779 residential child-caring agency which applies for renewal of its 780 license shall submit to the department a list of personnel or 781 household members who have worked or resided on a continuous 782 basis at the applicant family foster home or agency since 783 submitting fingerprints to the department, identifying those for 784 whom a written assurance of compliance was provided by the 785 department and identifying those personnel or household members 786 who have recently begun working or residing at the family foster 787 home or agency and are awaiting the results of the required 788 fingerprint check, along with the date of the submission of 789 those fingerprints for processing. The department shall by rule 790 determine the frequency of requests to the Department of Law 791 Enforcement to run state criminal records checks for such 792 personnel or household members except for those personnel or 793 household members awaiting the results of initial fingerprint

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794 checks for employment at the applicant family foster home or 795 agency.

796 (7) (a) The department may extend a license expiration date 797 once for a period of up to 30 days. However, the department may 798 not extend a license expiration date more than once during a 799 licensure period The department may issue a provisional license 800 to an applicant who is unable to conform to the licensing 801 requirements at the time of the study, but who is believed able to meet the licensing requirements within the time allowed by 802 803 the provisional license. The issuance of a provisional license 804 shall be contingent upon the submission to the department of an 805 acceptable written plan to overcome the deficiency by the 806 expiration date of the provisional license.

807 (b) A provisional license may be issued when the applicant 808 fails to meet licensing requirements in matters that are not of 809 immediate danger to the children and the agency has submitted a 810 corrective action plan which is approved by the department. A provisional license may be issued if the screening material has 811 812 been timely submitted; however, a provisional license may not be 813 issued unless the applicant is in compliance with the 814 requirements in this section for screening of personnel.

815 (c) A provisional license shall not be issued for a period 816 in excess of 1 year and shall not be subject to renewal; and it 817 may be suspended if periodic inspection by the department 818 indicates that insufficient progress has been made toward 819 compliance with the requirements.

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(b) Any of the following actions by a <u>family foster</u> home <u>or</u> its household members or an agency or its personnel is a ground



823 for denial, suspension, or revocation of a license: 824 1. An intentional or negligent act materially affecting the 825 health or safety of children in the home or agency. 826 2. A violation of the provisions of this section or of 827 licensing rules adopted promulgated pursuant to this section. 828 3. Noncompliance with the requirements for good moral 829 character as specified in paragraph (5)(b). 830 4. Failure to dismiss personnel or a household member found 831 in noncompliance with requirements for good moral character. 832 5. Failure to comply with the requirements of ss. 63.0422 833 and 790.335. 834 (12)835 (b) It is unlawful for any person, agency, family foster 836 home, summer day camp, or summer 24-hour camp providing care for 837 children to: 838 1. Willfully or intentionally fail to comply with the 839 requirements for the screening of personnel and family foster 840 homes or the dismissal of personnel or household members found 841 not to be in compliance with the requirements for good moral 842 character as specified in paragraph (5)(b). 843 2. Use information from the criminal records obtained under 844 this section for any purpose other than screening a person for 845 employment as specified in this section or to release such information to any other person for any purpose other than 846 847 screening for employment as specified in this section. 848 (c) It is unlawful for any person, agency, family foster 849 home, summer day camp, or summer 24-hour camp providing care for 850 children to use information from the juvenile records of any

person obtained under this section for any purpose other than

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852 screening for employment as specified in this section or to 853 release information from such records to any other person for 854 any purpose other than screening for employment as specified in 855 this section.

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(b) As a condition of licensure, foster parents shall
successfully complete a minimum of 21 hours of preservice
training. The preservice training shall be uniform statewide and
shall include, but not be limited to, such areas as:

 Orientation regarding agency purpose, objectives, resources, policies, and services;

2. Role of the foster parent as a treatment team member;

3. Transition of a child into and out of foster care, including issues of separation, loss, and attachment;

4. Management of difficult child behavior that can be intensified by placement, by prior abuse or neglect, and by prior placement disruptions;

5. Prevention of placement disruptions;

6. Care of children at various developmental levels, including appropriate discipline; and

872 7. Effects of foster parenting on the family of the foster873 parent.

(d) <u>Before</u> prior to licensure renewal, each level II
through level V foster parent <u>must</u> shall successfully complete 8
hours of inservice training. Each level I foster parent shall
successfully complete 4 hours of inservice training. Periodic
time-limited training courses shall be made available for
selective use by foster parents. Such inservice training shall
include subjects affecting the daily living experiences of

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881 foster parenting as a foster parent. For a foster parent 882 participating in the required inservice training, the department 883 shall reimburse such parent for travel expenditures and, if both 884 parents in a home are attending training or if the absence of 885 the parent would leave the children without departmentally 886 approved adult supervision, the department shall make provision 887 for child care or shall reimburse the foster parents for child 888 care purchased by the parents for children in their care.

889 Section 12. Subsection (4) of section 409.903, Florida 890 Statutes, is amended to read:

891 409.903 Mandatory payments for eligible persons.-The agency 892 shall make payments for medical assistance and related services on behalf of the following persons who the department, or the Social Security Administration by contract with the Department of Children and Families, determines to be eligible, subject to the income, assets, and categorical eligibility tests set forth 897 in federal and state law. Payment on behalf of these Medicaid eligible persons is subject to the availability of moneys and 899 any limitations established by the General Appropriations Act or chapter 216.

901 (4) A child who is eligible under Title IV-E of the Social 902 Security Act for subsidized board payments, foster care, or 903 adoption subsidies, and a child for whom the state has assumed 904 temporary or permanent responsibility and who does not qualify 905 for Title IV-E assistance but is in foster care, shelter or 906 emergency shelter care, or subsidized adoption. This category 907 includes:

908 (a) A young adult who is eligible to receive services under s. 409.1451, until the young adult reaches 21 years of age, 909

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910	without regard to any income, resource, or categorical
911	eligibility test that is otherwise required.
912	(b) This category also includes A person who as a child was
913	eligible under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act for foster
914	care or the state-provided foster care and who is a participant
915	in the Road-to-Independence Program.
916	(c) A child who is eligible for the Guardianship Assistance
917	Program as provided in s. 39.6225.
918	Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
919	409.991, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
920	409.991 Allocation of funds for community-based care lead
921	agencies
922	(1) As used in this section, the term:
923	(a) "Core services funds" means all funds allocated to
924	community-based care lead agencies operating under contract with
925	the department pursuant to s. 409.987, with the following
926	exceptions:
927	1. Funds appropriated for independent living;
928	2. Funds appropriated for maintenance adoption subsidies;
929	3. Funds allocated by the department for protective
930	investigations training;
931	4. Nonrecurring funds;
932	5. Designated mental health wrap-around services funds; and
933	6. Funds for special projects for a designated community-
934	based care lead agency; and
935	7. Funds appropriated for the Guardianship Assistance
936	Program under s. 39.6225.
937	Section 14. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section
938	414.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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939 414.045 Cash assistance program.-Cash assistance families 940 include any families receiving cash assistance payments from the 941 state program for temporary assistance for needy families as 942 defined in federal law, whether such funds are from federal 943 funds, state funds, or commingled federal and state funds. Cash assistance families may also include families receiving cash 944 945 assistance through a program defined as a separate state 946 program. 947 (1) For reporting purposes, families receiving cash 948 assistance shall be grouped into the following categories. The 949 department may develop additional groupings in order to comply 950 with federal reporting requirements, to comply with the data-951 reporting needs of the board of directors of CareerSource 952 Florida, Inc., or to better inform the public of program 953 progress. 954 (b) Child-only cases.-Child-only cases include cases that 955 do not have an adult or teen head of household as defined in 956 federal law. Such cases include: 957 1. Children in the care of caretaker relatives, if the 958 caretaker relatives choose to have their needs excluded in the 959 calculation of the amount of cash assistance. 960 2. Families in the Relative Caregiver Program as provided in s. 39.5085. 961 962 3. Families in which the only parent in a single-parent 963 family or both parents in a two-parent family receive 964 supplemental security income (SSI) benefits under Title XVI of 965 the Social Security Act, as amended. To the extent permitted by 966 federal law, individuals receiving SSI shall be excluded as

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household members in determining the amount of cash assistance,

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968 and such cases shall not be considered families containing an adult. Parents or caretaker relatives who are excluded from the 969 970 cash assistance group due to receipt of SSI may choose to 971 participate in work activities. An individual whose ability to 972 participate in work activities is limited who volunteers to 973 participate in work activities shall be assigned to work 974 activities consistent with such limitations. An individual who 975 volunteers to participate in a work activity may receive child 976 care or support services consistent with such participation.

977 4. Families in which the only parent in a single-parent 978 family or both parents in a two-parent family are not eligible 979 for cash assistance due to immigration status or other 980 limitation of federal law. To the extent required by federal 981 law, such cases shall not be considered families containing an 982 adult.

983 5. To the extent permitted by federal law and subject to 984 appropriations, special needs children who have been adopted 985 pursuant to s. 409.166 and whose adopting family qualifies as a 986 needy family under the state program for temporary assistance 987 for needy families. Notwithstanding any provision to the 988 contrary in s. 414.075, s. 414.085, or s. 414.095, a family 989 shall be considered a needy family if:

a. The family is determined by the department to have anincome below 200 percent of the federal poverty level;

992 b. The family meets the requirements of s. 414.095(2) and 993 (3) related to residence, citizenship, or eligible noncitizen 994 status; and

995 c. The family provides any information that may be 996 necessary to meet federal reporting requirements specified under

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997	Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act.
998	6. Families in the Guardianship Assistance Program as
999	provided in s. 39.6225.
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1001	Families described in subparagraph 1., subparagraph 2., or
1002	subparagraph 3. may receive child care assistance or other
1003	supports or services so that the children may continue to be
1004	cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives. Such
1005	assistance or services may be funded from the temporary
1006	assistance for needy families block grant to the extent
1007	permitted under federal law and to the extent funds have been
1008	provided in the General Appropriations Act.
1009	Section 15. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section
1010	1009.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
1011	1009.25 Fee exemptions
1012	(1) The following students are exempt from the payment of
1013	tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that
1014	provides workforce education programs, Florida College System
1015	institution, or state university:
1016	(d) A student who is or was at the time he or she reached
1017	18 years of age in the custody of a relative or nonrelative
1018	under s. 39.5085 or s. 39.6225 or who was adopted from the
1019	Department of Children and Families after May 5, 1997. Such
1020	exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in applied
1021	academics for adult education instruction. The exemption remains
1022	valid until the student reaches 28 years of age.
1023	Section 16. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.
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1026	And the title is amended as follows:
1027	Delete everything before the enacting clause
1028	and insert:
1029	A bill to be entitled
1030	An act relating to child welfare; amending ss. 39.01
1031	and 39.4015, F.S.; revising definitions; amending s.
1032	39.402, F.S.; requiring that the order for placement
1033	of a child in shelter care contain a written finding
1034	specifying that the Department of Children and
1035	Families has placement and care responsibility for
1036	certain children; amending s. 39.407, F.S.;
1037	authorizing certain advanced practice registered
1038	nurses to prescribe psychotropic medications to
1039	certain children; revising the time period within
1040	which a court must review a child's residential
1041	treatment plan; amending s. 39.5085, F.S.; revising
1042	eligibility for the Relative Caregiver Program;
1043	amending s. 39.5086, F.S.; deleting the term "fictive
1044	kin"; amending s. 39.6225, F.S.; providing for the
1045	termination of guardianship assistance benefits under
1046	certain circumstances; conforming provisions to
1047	changes made by the act; amending s. 39.6251, F.S.;
1048	requiring a young adult in extended foster care to
1049	provide certain documentation or authorize release of
1050	certain records; revising permanency goals for young
1051	adults in extended foster care; requiring execution of
1052	a voluntary placement agreement under certain
1053	circumstances; requiring the department to adopt
1054	rules; amending s. 39.701, F.S.; revising when a court

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Florida Senate - 2019 Bill No. SB 1650



1055 must return a child to the custody of his or her 1056 parents after making certain determinations; requiring 1057 the court to enter certain orders if a young adult 1058 enters extended foster care; amending s. 409.1451, 1059 F.S.; authorizing certain financial awards to be 1060 disregarded when a young adult is applying for other 1061 federal assistance; amending s. 409.175, F.S.; 1062 revising definitions; revising provisions related to 1063 the licensure of family foster homes and certain 1064 child-caring and child-placing agencies; deleting 1065 required numbers of training hours for foster parents; 1066 amending s. 409.903, F.S.; revising eligibility for 1067 Medicaid coverage; amending s. 409.991, F.S.; revising 1068 a definition; amending s. 414.045, F.S.; revising 1069 eligibility for child-only funding; amending s. 1070 1009.25, F.S.; revising eligibility for tuition fee 1071 exemptions; providing an effective date.