

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to economic self-sufficiency;
 3 requiring the Department of Children and Families to
 4 contract for an evaluation of the effectiveness of
 5 certain programs; creating an interagency working
 6 group for specified purposes; providing membership and
 7 duties of the working group; providing requirements
 8 for specified evaluations; requiring a report be
 9 submitted to specified entities by a certain date;
 10 providing for future expiration; providing an
 11 effective date.

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 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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15 Section 1. (1) The Department of Children and Families
 16 shall contract for an evaluation of and a report on the
 17 effectiveness of the following programs in this state:

18 (a) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 19 established under 7 U.S.C. ss. 2011 et seq.

20 (b) The temporary cash assistance program under s.
 21 414.095, Florida Statutes.

22 (c) The Medicaid program under s. 409.963, Florida
 23 Statutes.

24 (d) The school readiness program under Part VI of chapter
 25 1002, Florida Statutes.

26 (e) The housing choice voucher program established under
27 42 U.S.C. s. 1437.

28 (2) The Department of Children and Families, in
29 coordination with the Agency for Health Care Administration, the
30 Department of Economic Opportunity, the Department of Education,
31 and the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, shall establish a
32 working group comprised of two representatives from each agency
33 with a representative from the Department of Children and
34 Families serving as chair. The working group shall:

35 (a) Develop criteria for selecting an entity to conduct an
36 evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs described in
37 subsection (1). The criteria must, at a minimum, identify
38 datasets necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the programs
39 and determine the qualifications necessary in order to bid on
40 the contract.

41 (b) Evaluate the bid responses and select an entity to
42 conduct the program evaluations.

43 (3) The program evaluations must include a history of the
44 program; a description of the program, including its objectives,
45 methods of assistance, and ongoing accountability activities; an
46 analysis of the impacts and effectiveness of the program; a
47 review of the eligibility criteria for the program; the process
48 used to establish and document eligibility; the frequency of
49 eligibility determinations; the clarity in written, verbal, and
50 electronic communication in which eligibility requirements are

51 conveyed to current and potential program subscribers; and the
52 opportunities for improving service efficiency and efficacy. In
53 addition, to the degree possible for each program, the program
54 evaluation must quantify the changes in levels of economic self-
55 sufficiency among Floridians over the life of the program;
56 assess the degree to which the program is responsible for any
57 positive changes in economic self-sufficiency and identify any
58 contributing factors; identify the strengths and weaknesses in
59 the methods of assistance used by the program; and identify
60 potential innovations in, alternatives to, or improvements in
61 the program that may increase achievement of economic self-
62 sufficiency.

63 (4) Program evaluations must be compiled into a final
64 report. The Department of Children and Families must submit the
65 final report by February 1, 2021, to the Governor, the President
66 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
67 In addition, the department must provide copies of the report to
68 the Secretary of the Agency for Health Care Administration, the
69 Director of the Department of Economic Opportunity, the
70 Commissioner of Education, and the Board of Directors of the
71 Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

72 (5) This section expires July 1, 2021.

73 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.