

By Senator Rodriguez

37-00397A-20

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to detained or housed unaccompanied
3 minors; imposing requirements on state agencies, and
4 entities that contract with a state agency, which
5 provide services, or coordinate with the Federal
6 Government to provide services, relating to the
7 detention of unaccompanied minors in this state;
8 providing requirements for the Children and Youth
9 Cabinet; providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. (1) A state agency, or an entity that contracts
14 with a state agency, which provides services, or coordinates
15 with the Federal Government to provide services, relating to the
16 detention or housing of unaccompanied minors in this state
17 shall:

18 (a) Have a signed agreement with the Department of Children
19 and Families for the reporting of incidents of abuse or neglect;

20 (b) In conjunction with the appropriate school board,
21 arrange for the provision of education to such minors;

22 (c) Comply with the terms of the 1997 Flores Settlement
23 Agreement from Janet Reno, Attorney General, et al. v. Jenny
24 Lisette Flores, et al., 507 U.S. 292 (1993), including providing
25 for a certain quality of life for the detained minors, and may
26 not detain a minor for longer than the 20-day period established
27 therein;

28 (d) Prioritize keeping siblings together and placing them
29 with foster parents; and

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30 (e) Ensure that every employee who has not already
31 undergone a level 2 background screening under s. 435.04,
32 Florida Statutes, complete the background screening before he or
33 she is eligible to work in such a position.

34 (2) The Children and Youth Cabinet shall ensure that the
35 requirements of this section are met and include related
36 observations and findings and document deficiencies and areas in
37 need of improvement in its annual report required under s.
38 402.56, Florida Statutes.

39 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.