

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to child welfare; providing a short  
3           title; amending s. 20.19, F.S.; requiring the  
4           Department of Children and Families to establish  
5           performance metrics; specifying goals that must be  
6           established; revising and providing duties of  
7           community alliances; revising membership of community  
8           alliances; creating s. 39.0143, F.S.; requiring the  
9           department to establish and apply a methodology to  
10          rate the performance of all entities working together  
11          as circuit-level child welfare systems; specifying  
12          requirements for such rating system; requiring the  
13          department to include the ratings in an annual report  
14          and provide such report to specified entities;  
15          permitting the ratings to be used as the basis for the  
16          payment of performance incentives; amending s.  
17          39.3065, F.S.; requiring sheriffs providing certain  
18          services to adopt the child welfare practice model;  
19          requiring the department and certain sheriffs to  
20          monitor program performance and meet, at least  
21          quarterly, to collaborate on specified quality  
22          assurance and initiatives; requiring the department to  
23          conduct an annual evaluation of the sheriffs' program  
24          performance based on certain criteria; requiring the  
25          department to submit an annual report on certain

26 information by a specified date; providing report  
27 requirements; providing for future repeal; creating  
28 ss. 211.0252, 212.1833, 561.1212, and 624.51056, F.S.;  
29 authorizing a tax credit for certain contributions  
30 made to an eligible charitable organization with  
31 certain restrictions; amending s. 220.02, F.S.;  
32 revising legislative intent; amending ss. 220.13 and  
33 220.186, F.S.; conforming cross-references to changes  
34 made by the act; creating s. 220.1876, F.S.;  
35 authorizing a tax credit for certain contributions  
36 made to an eligible organization with certain  
37 restrictions; providing requirements for applying a  
38 credit when the taxpayer requests an extension;  
39 amending s. 402.402, F.S.; requiring the department to  
40 implement certain policies and programs; requiring the  
41 annual report to include information on professional  
42 advancement of child protective investigators and  
43 supervisors; requiring attorneys contracting with the  
44 department to receive certain training within a  
45 specified time; creating s. 402.62, F.S.; creating the  
46 Children's Promise tax credit; providing definitions;  
47 providing requirements for designation as an eligible  
48 charitable organization; specifying certain  
49 organizations that may not be designated as an  
50 eligible charitable organization; providing

51 responsibilities of eligible charitable organizations  
52 receiving contributions under the tax credit;  
53 providing responsibilities of the department related  
54 to the tax credit; providing guidelines for the  
55 application of, limitations to, and transfers of the  
56 tax credit; providing for the preservation of the tax  
57 credit under certain circumstances; authorizing the  
58 Department of Revenue, the Division of Alcoholic  
59 Beverages and Tobacco of the Department of Business  
60 and Professional Regulation, and the Department of  
61 Children and Families to develop a cooperative  
62 agreement to administer the tax credit; providing the  
63 Department of Revenue, the Division of Alcoholic  
64 Beverages and Tobacco of the Department of Business  
65 and Professional Regulation, and the Department of  
66 Children and Families rulemaking authority;  
67 authorizing the Department of Revenue and the Division  
68 of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco of the Department  
69 of Business and Professional Regulation to share  
70 certain information as needed to administer the tax  
71 credit program; creating s. 402.715, F.S.; requiring  
72 the department to establish an Office of Quality;  
73 providing duties of the office; amending s. 402.7305,  
74 F.S.; removing limitations on monitoring of child-  
75 caring or child-placing services providers; amending

76 | s. 409.988, F.S.; revising the duties of a lead  
77 | agency; amending s. 409.996, F.S.; adding  
78 | responsibilities to the department for contracts  
79 | regarding care for children in the child welfare  
80 | system; specifying additional requirements for  
81 | contracts; authorizing the department to provide  
82 | technical assistance to lead agencies; authorizing the  
83 | department to contract for the provision of children's  
84 | legal services; requiring the contracted attorneys to  
85 | adopt the child welfare practice model and operate in  
86 | the same manner as attorneys employed by the  
87 | department; requiring the department and the  
88 | contracted attorneys to monitor program performance;  
89 | requiring the department to conduct an annual  
90 | evaluation based on certain criteria; requiring the  
91 | department to submit an annual report to the Governor  
92 | and Legislature by a specified date; providing for  
93 | future repeal; revising requirements regarding the  
94 | quality assurance program for contracted services to  
95 | dependent children; deleting obsolete language;  
96 | requiring the department to implement pilot projects  
97 | to improve child welfare outcomes in specified  
98 | judicial circuits; requiring the department to  
99 | establish performance metrics and standards to  
100 | implement the pilot projects; requiring lead agencies

101 in specified judicial circuits to provide certain data  
102 to the department each quarter; requiring the  
103 department to review such data; authorizing the  
104 department to advance incentive funding to certain  
105 lead agencies that meet specified requirements;  
106 requiring the department to include certain results in  
107 a specified report; providing for future expiration;  
108 amending s. 409.997, F.S.; specifying types of data  
109 that may be used by the department in the  
110 accountability program; adding contract compliance as  
111 a use of the data; allowing the requirements of the  
112 monitoring program to be incorporated into the  
113 contract management program of the department;  
114 amending s. 1004.615, F.S.; requiring the Florida  
115 Institute for Child Welfare and the Florida State  
116 University College of Social Work to design and  
117 implement a specified curriculum; providing  
118 requirements of the institute regarding the  
119 curriculum; requiring the institute to contract for  
120 certain evaluations; requiring certain entities to  
121 design and implement a career-long professional  
122 development curriculum for child welfare  
123 professionals; requiring the institute to establish a  
124 consulting program for child welfare organizations;  
125 authorizing the Department of Revenue to adopt

126 emergency rules; providing an appropriation; requiring  
 127 the institute to perform an analysis of the use of  
 128 funding provided by the tax credit and provide a  
 129 report of such analysis to the Governor and the  
 130 Legislature by a specified date; requiring the  
 131 department to develop a career ladder for child  
 132 protective investigations professionals and submit a  
 133 proposal to the Legislature by a specified date;  
 134 providing an effective date.

135

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

137

138 Section 1. Sections 2, 11, and 15 of this act may be cited  
 139 as the "State of Hope Act."

140 Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and paragraphs  
 141 (b), (d), and (e) of subsection (5) of section 20.19, Florida  
 142 Statutes, are amended to read:

143 20.19 Department of Children and Families.—There is  
 144 created a Department of Children and Families.

145 (1) MISSION AND PURPOSE.—

146 (b) The department shall develop a strategic plan for  
 147 fulfilling its mission and establish a set of measurable goals,  
 148 objectives, performance standards and metrics, and quality  
 149 assurance requirements to ensure that the department is  
 150 accountable to the people of Florida. Such goals shall, at a

151 minimum, include those specified in s. 409.986(2).

152 (5) COMMUNITY ALLIANCES.—

153 (b) The duties of the community alliance include, but are  
154 not limited to:

155 1. Joint planning for resource utilization in the  
156 community, including resources appropriated to the department  
157 and any funds that local funding sources choose to provide.

158 2. Needs assessment and establishment of community  
159 priorities for service delivery.

160 3. Determining community outcome goals to supplement  
161 state-required outcomes.

162 4. Serving as a catalyst for community resource  
163 development, including, but not limited to, identifying existing  
164 programs and services delivered by and assistance available from  
165 community-based and faith-based organizations, and encouraging  
166 the development and availability of such programs, services, and  
167 assistance by such organizations. The community alliance shall  
168 ensure that the community-based care lead agency is aware of  
169 such programs, services, and assistance and work to facilitate  
170 the lead agency's appropriate use of these resources.

171 5. Providing for community education and advocacy on  
172 issues related to delivery of services.

173 6. Promoting prevention and early intervention services.

174 (d) The ~~initial~~ membership of the community alliance in a  
175 county shall at a minimum be composed of the following:

- 176 1. A representative from the department.
- 177 2. A representative from county government.
- 178 3. A representative from the school district.
- 179 4. A representative from the county United Way.
- 180 5. A representative from the county sheriff's office.
- 181 6. A representative from the circuit court corresponding
- 182 to the county.
- 183 7. A representative from the county children's board, if
- 184 one exists.
- 185 8. A representative of a faith-based organization involved
- 186 in efforts to prevent child maltreatment, strengthen families,
- 187 or promote adoption.
- 188 ~~(e) At any time after the initial meeting of the community~~
- 189 ~~alliance,~~ The community alliance shall adopt bylaws and may
- 190 increase the membership of the alliance to include the state
- 191 attorney for the judicial circuit in which the community
- 192 alliance is located, or his or her designee, the public defender
- 193 for the judicial circuit in which the community alliance is
- 194 located, or his or her designee, and Other individuals and
- 195 organizations who represent funding organizations, are community
- 196 leaders, have knowledge of community-based service issues, or
- 197 otherwise represent perspectives that will enable them to
- 198 accomplish the duties listed in paragraph (b), if, in the
- 199 judgment of the alliance, such change is necessary to adequately
- 200 represent the diversity of the population within the community



201 alliance service circuits.

202 Section 3. Section 39.0143, Florida Statutes, is created  
203 to read:

204 39.0143 Evaluation of circuit child welfare system  
205 performance.—In order to enhance the accountability shared by  
206 the multiple entities whose actions affect the performance of  
207 the state's child welfare system, and to promote the achievement  
208 of the highest levels of quality, by July 1, 2021, the  
209 department shall, in consultation with stakeholders, establish  
210 and apply a methodology to rate the performance of all entities  
211 involved in the child welfare system in a circuit working  
212 together as a circuit-level child welfare system. Such  
213 performance rating will provide communities concise indicators  
214 of their local child welfare system performance.

215 (1) Entities involved in the child welfare system include,  
216 but are not limited to, the department, community alliances  
217 under s. 20.19, community-based care lead agencies, a judicial  
218 circuit's guardian ad litem program, school districts, county  
219 governments, law enforcement agencies, children's advocacy  
220 centers, child protection teams, contracted attorneys providing  
221 children's legal services, the court system, managing entities  
222 as defined in s. 394.9082, the Agency for Health Care  
223 Administration, and Medicaid managed medical assistance plans.

224 (2) The department shall determine a single global rating  
225 for each circuit. The department may also determine ratings for

226 individual domains.

227 (3) The department shall, at a minimum, use the results-  
228 oriented accountability assessment conducted under s. 409.997 of  
229 groups of entities working together on a circuit basis to  
230 provide an integrated system of care in its methodology. The  
231 department shall make any adjustments necessary for the  
232 evaluation as provided by s. 409.997.

233 (4) The department shall include ratings in the annual  
234 performance report under s. 409.997 and provide the report to  
235 the entities specified in subsection (1).

236 (5) The department may use such ratings as the basis for  
237 payment of performance incentives recognizing circuit-level  
238 child welfare system performance improvement. The incentives  
239 shall be used to fund multi-entity initiatives to further  
240 enhance circuit-level child welfare system performance.

241 Section 4. Section 39.3065, Florida Statutes, is amended  
242 to read:

243 39.3065 Sheriffs of certain counties to provide child  
244 protective investigative services; procedures; funding.—

245 (1) As described in this section, the department ~~of~~  
246 ~~Children and Families~~ shall, by the end of fiscal year 1999-  
247 2000, transfer all responsibility for child protective  
248 investigations for Pinellas County, Manatee County, Broward  
249 County, and Pasco County to the sheriff of that county in which  
250 the child abuse, neglect, or abandonment is alleged to have

251 occurred. Each sheriff is responsible for the provision of all  
252 child protective investigations in his or her county. Each  
253 individual who provides these services must complete the  
254 training provided to and required of protective investigators  
255 employed by the department ~~of Children and Families~~.

256 (2) During fiscal year 1998-1999, the department ~~of~~  
257 ~~Children and Families~~ and each sheriff's office shall enter into  
258 a contract for the provision of these services. Funding for the  
259 services will be appropriated to the department ~~of Children and~~  
260 ~~Families~~, and the department shall transfer to the respective  
261 sheriffs for the duration of fiscal year 1998-1999, funding for  
262 the investigative responsibilities assumed by the sheriffs,  
263 including federal funds that the provider is eligible for and  
264 agrees to earn and that portion of general revenue funds which  
265 is currently associated with the services that are being  
266 furnished under contract, and including, but not limited to,  
267 funding for all investigative, supervisory, and clerical  
268 positions; training; all associated equipment; furnishings; and  
269 other fixed capital items. The contract must specify whether the  
270 department will continue to perform part or none of the child  
271 protective investigations during the initial year. The sheriffs  
272 may either conduct the investigations themselves or may, in  
273 turn, subcontract with law enforcement officials or with  
274 properly trained employees of private agencies to conduct  
275 investigations related to neglect cases only. If such a

276 subcontract is awarded, the sheriff must take full  
277 responsibility for any safety decision made by the subcontractor  
278 and must immediately respond with law enforcement staff to any  
279 situation that requires removal of a child due to a condition  
280 that poses an immediate threat to the child's life. The contract  
281 must specify whether the services are to be performed by  
282 departmental employees or by persons determined by the sheriff.  
283 During this initial year, the department is responsible for  
284 quality assurance, and the department retains the responsibility  
285 for the performance of all child protective investigations. The  
286 department must identify any barriers to transferring the entire  
287 responsibility for child protective services to the sheriffs'  
288 offices and must pursue avenues for removing any such barriers  
289 by means including, but not limited to, applying for federal  
290 waivers. By January 15, 1999, the department shall submit to the  
291 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
292 Representatives, and the chairs of the Senate and House  
293 committees that oversee departmental activities a report that  
294 describes any remaining barriers, including any that pertain to  
295 funding and related administrative issues. Unless the  
296 Legislature, on the basis of that report or other pertinent  
297 information, acts to block a transfer of the entire  
298 responsibility for child protective investigations to the  
299 sheriffs' offices, the sheriffs of Pasco County, Manatee County,  
300 Broward County, and Pinellas County, beginning in fiscal year

301 1999-2000, shall assume the entire responsibility for such  
 302 services, as provided in subsection (3).

303 (3) (a) Beginning in fiscal year 1999-2000, the sheriffs of  
 304 Pasco County, Manatee County, Broward County, and Pinellas  
 305 County have the responsibility to provide all child protective  
 306 investigations in their respective counties. Beginning in fiscal  
 307 year 2000-2001, the department ~~of Children and Families~~ is  
 308 authorized to enter into grant agreements with sheriffs of other  
 309 counties to perform child protective investigations in their  
 310 respective counties. The sheriffs shall adopt the child welfare  
 311 practice model, as periodically modified by the department, that  
 312 is used by child protective investigators employed by the  
 313 department.

314 (b) The sheriffs providing child protective investigative  
 315 services shall operate, ~~at a minimum,~~ in accordance with the  
 316 same federal and state performance standards and metrics for  
 317 ~~outcome measures established by the Legislature for protective~~  
 318 investigations imposed on conducted child protective  
 319 investigators employed by the department ~~of Children and~~  
 320 ~~Families~~. Each individual who provides these services must  
 321 complete, at a minimum, the training provided to and required of  
 322 protective investigators employed by the department ~~of Children~~  
 323 ~~and Families~~.

324 (c) Funds for providing child protective investigations  
 325 must be identified in the annual appropriation made to the

326 department ~~of Children and Families~~, which shall award grants  
327 for the full amount identified to the respective sheriffs'  
328 offices. Notwithstanding ~~the provisions of~~ ss. 216.181(16) (b)  
329 and 216.351, the department ~~of Children and Families~~ may advance  
330 payments to the sheriffs for child protective investigations.  
331 Funds for the child protective investigations may not be  
332 integrated into the sheriffs' regular budgets. Budgetary data  
333 and other data relating to the performance of child protective  
334 investigations must be maintained separately from all other  
335 records of the sheriffs' offices and reported to the department  
336 ~~of Children and Families~~ as specified in the grant agreement.

337 (d) The department and sheriffs providing child protective  
338 investigative services shall collaborate to monitor program  
339 performance on an ongoing basis. The department and each  
340 sheriff, or his or her designee, shall meet, at least quarterly,  
341 to collaborate on federal and state quality assurance and  
342 quality improvement initiatives.

343 (e)-(d) The department shall conduct an annual evaluation  
344 of the program performance of sheriffs providing child  
345 protective investigative services which evaluation shall be  
346 based on the same child welfare practice model principles, and  
347 federal and state performance standards and metrics, that are  
348 imposed on child protective investigators employed by ~~criteria~~  
349 ~~mutually agreed upon by the respective sheriffs and the~~  
350 department ~~of Children and Families~~. The program performance

351 evaluation must be standardized statewide and the department  
352 shall select random cases for evaluation. The program  
353 performance evaluation shall be conducted by a team of peer  
354 reviewers from the respective sheriffs' offices that perform  
355 child protective investigations and representatives from the  
356 department.

357 (f) The department of Children and Families shall produce  
358 submit an annual report regarding, at a minimum, quality  
359 performance quality, outcome-measure attainment, and cost  
360 efficiency of the services provided by the sheriffs. The annual  
361 report shall include data and information on both the sheriffs'  
362 and the department's performance of protective investigations.  
363 The department shall submit the annual report to the President  
364 of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
365 to the Governor no later than November 1 January 31 of each year  
366 the sheriffs are receiving general appropriations to provide  
367 child protective investigations.

368  
369 This section shall be repealed July 1, 2023, unless reviewed and  
370 saved from repeal by the Legislature.

371 Section 5. Section 211.0252, Florida Statutes, is created  
372 to read:

373 211.0252 Credit for contributions to eligible charitable  
374 organizations.—Beginning July 1, 2021, there is allowed a credit  
375 of 100 percent of an eligible contribution made to an eligible

376 charitable organization under s. 402.62 against any tax due  
377 under s. 211.02 or s. 211.025. However, the combined credit  
378 allowed under this section and s. 211.0251 may not exceed 50  
379 percent of the tax due on the return on which the credit is  
380 taken. If the combined credit allowed under this section and s.  
381 211.0251 exceeds 50 percent of the tax due on the return, the  
382 credit must first be taken under s. 211.0251. Any remaining  
383 liability, up to 50 percent of the tax due, shall be taken under  
384 this section. For purposes of the distributions of tax revenue  
385 under s. 211.06, the department shall disregard any tax credits  
386 allowed under this section to ensure that any reduction in tax  
387 revenue received which is attributable to the tax credits  
388 results only in a reduction in distributions to the General  
389 Revenue Fund. The provisions of s. 402.62 apply to the credit  
390 authorized by this section.

391 Section 6. Section 212.1833, Florida Statutes, is created  
392 to read:

393 212.1833 Credit for contributions to eligible charitable  
394 organizations.—Beginning July 1, 2021, there is allowed a credit  
395 of 100 percent of an eligible contribution made to an eligible  
396 charitable organization under s. 402.62 against any tax imposed  
397 by the state and due under this chapter from a direct pay permit  
398 holder as a result of the direct pay permit held pursuant to s.  
399 212.183. For purposes of the dealer's credit granted for keeping  
400 prescribed records, filing timely tax returns, and properly



401 accounting and remitting taxes under s. 212.12, the amount of  
402 tax due used to calculate the credit shall include any eligible  
403 contribution made to an eligible charitable organization from a  
404 direct pay permit holder. For purposes of the distributions of  
405 tax revenue under s. 212.20, the department shall disregard any  
406 tax credits allowed under this section to ensure that any  
407 reduction in tax revenue received that is attributable to the  
408 tax credits results only in a reduction in distributions to the  
409 General Revenue Fund. The provisions of s. 402.62 apply to the  
410 credit authorized by this section. A dealer who claims a tax  
411 credit under this section must file his or her tax returns and  
412 pay his or her taxes by electronic means under s. 213.755.

413 Section 7. Subsection (8) of section 220.02, Florida  
414 Statutes, is amended to read:

415 220.02 Legislative intent.—

416 (8) It is the intent of the Legislature that credits  
417 against either the corporate income tax or the franchise tax be  
418 applied in the following order: those enumerated in s. 631.828,  
419 those enumerated in s. 220.191, those enumerated in s. 220.181,  
420 those enumerated in s. 220.183, those enumerated in s. 220.182,  
421 those enumerated in s. 220.1895, those enumerated in s. 220.195,  
422 those enumerated in s. 220.184, those enumerated in s. 220.186,  
423 those enumerated in s. 220.1845, those enumerated in s. 220.19,  
424 those enumerated in s. 220.185, those enumerated in s. 220.1875,  
425 those enumerated in s. 220.1876, those enumerated in s. 220.192,

426 those enumerated in s. 220.193, those enumerated in s. 288.9916,  
 427 those enumerated in s. 220.1899, those enumerated in s. 220.194,  
 428 and those enumerated in s. 220.196.

429 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section  
 430 220.13, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

431 220.13 "Adjusted federal income" defined.—

432 (1) The term "adjusted federal income" means an amount  
 433 equal to the taxpayer's taxable income as defined in subsection  
 434 (2), or such taxable income of more than one taxpayer as  
 435 provided in s. 220.131, for the taxable year, adjusted as  
 436 follows:

437 (a) Additions.—There shall be added to such taxable  
 438 income:

439 1.a. The amount of any tax upon or measured by income,  
 440 excluding taxes based on gross receipts or revenues, paid or  
 441 accrued as a liability to the District of Columbia or any state  
 442 of the United States which is deductible from gross income in  
 443 the computation of taxable income for the taxable year.

444 b. Notwithstanding sub-subparagraph a., if a credit taken  
 445 under s. 220.1875 or s. 220.1876 is added to taxable income in a  
 446 previous taxable year under subparagraph 11. and is taken as a  
 447 deduction for federal tax purposes in the current taxable year,  
 448 the amount of the deduction allowed shall not be added to  
 449 taxable income in the current year. The exception in this sub-  
 450 subparagraph is intended to ensure that the credit under s.

451 220.1875 or s. 220.1876 is added in the applicable taxable year  
452 and does not result in a duplicate addition in a subsequent  
453 year.

454 2. The amount of interest which is excluded from taxable  
455 income under s. 103(a) of the Internal Revenue Code or any other  
456 federal law, less the associated expenses disallowed in the  
457 computation of taxable income under s. 265 of the Internal  
458 Revenue Code or any other law, excluding 60 percent of any  
459 amounts included in alternative minimum taxable income, as  
460 defined in s. 55(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, if the  
461 taxpayer pays tax under s. 220.11(3).

462 3. In the case of a regulated investment company or real  
463 estate investment trust, an amount equal to the excess of the  
464 net long-term capital gain for the taxable year over the amount  
465 of the capital gain dividends attributable to the taxable year.

466 4. That portion of the wages or salaries paid or incurred  
467 for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit  
468 allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.181. This  
469 subparagraph shall expire on the date specified in s. 290.016  
470 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act.

471 5. That portion of the ad valorem school taxes paid or  
472 incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of  
473 the credit allowable for the taxable year under s. 220.182. This  
474 subparagraph shall expire on the date specified in s. 290.016  
475 for the expiration of the Florida Enterprise Zone Act.

476           6. The amount taken as a credit under s. 220.195 which is  
 477     deductible from gross income in the computation of taxable  
 478     income for the taxable year.

479           7. That portion of assessments to fund a guaranty  
 480     association incurred for the taxable year which is equal to the  
 481     amount of the credit allowable for the taxable year.

482           8. In the case of a nonprofit corporation which holds a  
 483     pari-mutuel permit and which is exempt from federal income tax  
 484     as a farmers' cooperative, an amount equal to the excess of the  
 485     gross income attributable to the pari-mutuel operations over the  
 486     attributable expenses for the taxable year.

487           9. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year under  
 488     s. 220.1895.

489           10. Up to nine percent of the eligible basis of any  
 490     designated project which is equal to the credit allowable for  
 491     the taxable year under s. 220.185.

492           11. Any ~~The~~ amount taken as a credit for the taxable year  
 493     under s. 220.1875 or s. 220.1876. The addition in this  
 494     subparagraph is intended to ensure that the same amount is not  
 495     allowed for the tax purposes of this state as both a deduction  
 496     from income and a credit against the tax. This addition is not  
 497     intended to result in adding the same expense back to income  
 498     more than once.

499           12. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year  
 500     under s. 220.192.

501 13. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year  
 502 under s. 220.193.

503 14. Any portion of a qualified investment, as defined in  
 504 s. 288.9913, which is claimed as a deduction by the taxpayer and  
 505 taken as a credit against income tax pursuant to s. 288.9916.

506 15. The costs to acquire a tax credit pursuant to s.  
 507 288.1254(5) that are deducted from or otherwise reduce federal  
 508 taxable income for the taxable year.

509 16. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year  
 510 pursuant to s. 220.194.

511 17. The amount taken as a credit for the taxable year  
 512 under s. 220.196. The addition in this subparagraph is intended  
 513 to ensure that the same amount is not allowed for the tax  
 514 purposes of this state as both a deduction from income and a  
 515 credit against the tax. The addition is not intended to result  
 516 in adding the same expense back to income more than once.

517 Section 9. Subsection (2) of section 220.186, Florida  
 518 Statutes, is amended to read:

519 220.186 Credit for Florida alternative minimum tax.—

520 (2) The credit pursuant to this section shall be the  
 521 amount of the excess, if any, of the tax paid based upon taxable  
 522 income determined pursuant to s. 220.13(2)(k) over the amount of  
 523 tax which would have been due based upon taxable income without  
 524 application of s. 220.13(2)(k), before application of this  
 525 credit without application of any credit under s. 220.1875 or s.

526 220.1876.

527 Section 10. Section 220.1876, Florida Statutes, is created  
528 to read:

529 220.1876 Credit for contributions to eligible charitable  
530 organizations.—

531 (1) Beginning January 1, 2021, there is allowed a credit  
532 of 100 percent of an eligible contribution made to an eligible  
533 charitable organization under s. 402.62 against any tax due for  
534 a taxable year under this chapter after the application of any  
535 other allowable credits by the taxpayer. An eligible  
536 contribution must be made to an eligible charitable organization  
537 on or before the date the taxpayer is required to file a return  
538 pursuant to s. 220.222. The credit granted by this section shall  
539 be reduced by the difference between the amount of federal  
540 corporate income tax taking into account the credit granted by  
541 this section and the amount of federal corporate income tax  
542 without application of the credit granted by this section.

543 (2) A taxpayer who files a Florida consolidated return as  
544 a member of an affiliated group pursuant to s. 220.131(1) may be  
545 allowed the credit on a consolidated return basis; however, the  
546 total credit taken by the affiliated group is subject to the  
547 limitation established under subsection (1).

548 (3) The provisions of s. 402.62 apply to the credit  
549 authorized by this section.

550 (4) If a taxpayer applies and is approved for a credit

551 under s. 402.62 after timely requesting an extension to file  
552 under s. 220.222(2):

553 (a) The credit does not reduce the amount of tax due for  
554 purposes of the department's determination as to whether the  
555 taxpayer was in compliance with the requirement to pay tentative  
556 taxes under ss. 220.222 and 220.32.

557 (b) The taxpayer's noncompliance with the requirement to  
558 pay tentative taxes shall result in the revocation and  
559 rescindment of any such credit.

560 (c) The taxpayer shall be assessed for any taxes,  
561 penalties, or interest due from the taxpayer's noncompliance  
562 with the requirement to pay tentative taxes.

563 Section 11. Section 402.402, Florida Statutes, is amended  
564 to read:

565 402.402 Child protection and child welfare personnel;  
566 attorneys employed by the department.—

567 (1) CHILD PROTECTIVE INVESTIGATION PROFESSIONAL STAFF  
568 REQUIREMENTS.—The department is responsible for recruitment of  
569 qualified professional staff to serve as child protective  
570 investigators and child protective investigation supervisors.  
571 The department shall make every effort to recruit and hire  
572 persons qualified by their education and experience to perform  
573 social work functions. The department's efforts shall be guided  
574 by the goal that ~~by July 1, 2019,~~ at least half of all child  
575 protective investigators and supervisors will have a bachelor's

576 degree or a master's degree in social work from a college or  
577 university social work program accredited by the Council on  
578 Social Work Education. The department, in collaboration with the  
579 lead agencies, subcontracted provider organizations, the Florida  
580 Institute for Child Welfare created pursuant to s. 1004.615, and  
581 other partners in the child welfare system, shall develop a  
582 protocol for screening candidates for child protective positions  
583 which reflects the preferences specified in paragraphs (a)-(f).  
584 The following persons shall be given preference in the  
585 recruitment of qualified professional staff, but the preferences  
586 serve only as guidance and do not limit the department's  
587 discretion to select the best available candidates:

588 (a) Individuals with baccalaureate degrees in social work  
589 and child protective investigation supervisors with master's  
590 degrees in social work from a college or university social work  
591 program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

592 (b) Individuals with baccalaureate or master's degrees in  
593 psychology, sociology, counseling, special education, education,  
594 human development, child development, family development,  
595 marriage and family therapy, and nursing.

596 (c) Individuals with baccalaureate degrees who have a  
597 combination of directly relevant work and volunteer experience,  
598 preferably in a public service field related to children's  
599 services, demonstrating critical thinking skills, formal  
600 assessment processes, communication skills, problem solving, and



601 empathy; a commitment to helping children and families; a  
602 capacity to work as part of a team; an interest in continuous  
603 development of skills and knowledge; and personal strength and  
604 resilience to manage competing demands and handle workplace  
605 stresses.

606 (2) SPECIALIZED TRAINING.—All child protective  
607 investigators and child protective investigation supervisors  
608 employed by the department or a sheriff's office must complete  
609 specialized training either focused on serving a specific  
610 population, including, but not limited to, medically fragile  
611 children, sexually exploited children, children under 3 years of  
612 age, or families with a history of domestic violence, mental  
613 illness, or substance abuse, or focused on performing certain  
614 aspects of child protection practice, including, but not limited  
615 to, investigation techniques and analysis of family dynamics.  
616 The specialized training may be used to fulfill continuing  
617 education requirements under s. 402.40(3)(e). Individuals ~~hired~~  
618 ~~before July 1, 2014, shall complete the specialized training by~~  
619 ~~June 30, 2016, and individuals~~ hired on or after July 1, 2014,  
620 shall complete the specialized training within 2 years after  
621 hire. An individual may receive specialized training in multiple  
622 areas.

623 (3) STAFF SUPPORT.—The department shall implement policies  
624 and programs that mitigate and prevent the impact of secondary  
625 traumatic stress and burnout among child protective

626 investigations staff, including, but not limited to:

627 (a) Initiatives to encourage and inspire child protective  
628 investigations staff, including recognizing their achievements  
629 on a recognition wall within their unit.

630 (b) Formal procedures for providing support to child  
631 protective investigations staff after a critical incident such  
632 as a child fatality.

633 (c) Initial training upon appointment to a supervisory  
634 position and annual continuing education for all supervisors on  
635 how to prevent secondary traumatic stress and burnout among the  
636 employees they supervise.

637 (d) Monitoring levels of secondary traumatic stress and  
638 burnout among individual employees and intervening as needed.  
639 The department shall closely monitor and respond to levels of  
640 secondary traumatic stress and burnout among employees during  
641 the first 2 years after hire.

642 (e) Ongoing training in self-care for all child protective  
643 investigations staff.

644  
645 Such programs may also include, but are not limited, to formal  
646 peer counseling and support programs.

647 (4) ~~(3)~~ REPORT.—By each October 1, the department shall  
648 submit a report on the educational qualifications, turnover,  
649 professional advancement, and working conditions of the child  
650 protective investigators and supervisors to the Governor, the

651 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
652 Representatives.

653 ~~(5)-(4)~~ ATTORNEYS EMPLOYED BY OR CONTRACTING WITH THE  
654 DEPARTMENT TO HANDLE CHILD WELFARE CASES.—Attorneys hired or  
655 contracted with on or after July 1, 2014, whose primary  
656 responsibility is representing the department in child welfare  
657 cases shall, within the first 6 months of employment, receive  
658 training in:

659 (a) The dependency court process, including the attorney's  
660 role in preparing and reviewing documents prepared for  
661 dependency court for accuracy and completeness. ~~†~~

662 (b) Preparing and presenting child welfare cases,  
663 including at least 1 week shadowing an experienced children's  
664 legal services attorney preparing and presenting cases. ~~†~~

665 (c) Safety assessment, safety decisionmaking tools, and  
666 safety plans. ~~†~~

667 (d) Developing information presented by investigators and  
668 case managers to support decisionmaking in the best interest of  
669 children. ~~† and~~

670 (e) The experiences and techniques of case managers and  
671 investigators, including shadowing an experienced child  
672 protective investigator and an experienced case manager for at  
673 least 8 hours.

674 Section 12. Section 402.62, Florida Statutes, is created  
675 to read:

676           402.62 Children's Promise Tax Credit.—  
 677           (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:  
 678           (a) "Annual tax credit amount" means, for any state fiscal  
 679 year, the sum of the amount of tax credits approved under  
 680 paragraph (5) (b), including tax credits to be taken under s.  
 681 211.0252, s. 212.1833, s. 220.1876, s. 561.1212, or s.  
 682 624.51056, which are approved for taxpayers whose taxable years  
 683 begin on or after January 1 of the calendar year preceding the  
 684 start of the applicable state fiscal year.  
 685           (b) "Division" means the Division of Alcoholic Beverages  
 686 and Tobacco of the Department of Business and Professional  
 687 Regulation.  
 688           (c) "Eligible charitable organization" means an  
 689 organization designated by the department to be eligible to  
 690 receive funding under this section.  
 691           (d) "Eligible contribution" means a monetary contribution  
 692 from a taxpayer, subject to the restrictions provided in this  
 693 section, to an eligible charitable organization. The taxpayer  
 694 making the contribution may not designate a specific child  
 695 assisted by the eligible charitable organization as the  
 696 beneficiary of the contribution.  
 697           (e) "Tax credit cap amount" means the maximum annual tax  
 698 credit amount that the Department of Revenue may approve for a  
 699 state fiscal year.  
 700           (2) CHILDREN'S PROMISE TAX CREDITS; ELIGIBILITY.—

701        (a) The department shall designate as an eligible  
702 charitable organization an organization that:

703        1. Is exempt from federal income taxation under s.  
704 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

705        2. Is a Florida entity formed under chapter 605, chapter  
706 607, or chapter 617 and whose principal office is located in the  
707 state.

708        3. Provides services to:

709        a. Prevent child abuse, neglect, abandonment, or  
710 exploitation;

711        b. Enhance the safety, permanency, or well-being of  
712 children with child welfare involvement;

713        c. Assist families with children who have a chronic  
714 illness or physical, intellectual, developmental, or emotional  
715 disability; or

716        d. Provide workforce development services to families of  
717 children eligible for a federal free or reduced-price meals  
718 program.

719        4. Has a contract or written referral agreement with, or  
720 reference from, the department, a community-based care lead  
721 agency as defined in s. 409.986, a managing entity as defined in  
722 s. 394.9082, or the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, for  
723 services specified in subparagraph 3.

724        5. Provides to the department accurate information  
725 including, at a minimum, a description of the services provided

726 by the organization that are eligible for funding under this  
727 section; the number of individuals served through those services  
728 during the last calendar year in total and the number served  
729 during the last calendar year using funding under this section;  
730 basic financial information regarding the organization and  
731 services eligible for funding under this section; outcomes for  
732 such services; and contact information for the organization.

733 6. Annually submits a statement signed by a current  
734 officer of the organization, under penalty of perjury, that the  
735 organization meets all criteria to qualify as an eligible  
736 charitable organization, has fulfilled responsibilities under  
737 this section for the previous fiscal year if the organization  
738 received any funding through this credit during the previous  
739 year, and intends to fulfill its responsibilities during the  
740 upcoming year.

741 7. Provides any documentation requested by the department  
742 to verify eligibility as an eligible charitable organization or  
743 compliance with this section.

744 (b) The department may not designate as an eligible  
745 charitable organization an organization that:

746 1. Provides abortions, pays for or provides coverage of  
747 abortions, or financially supports any other entity that  
748 provides, pays for, or provides coverage of abortions; or

749 2. Has received more than 50 percent of its total annual  
750 revenue from the department or the Agency for Persons with

751 Disabilities, either directly or via a contractor of the  
 752 department or agency, in the prior fiscal year.

753 (3) RESPONSIBILITIES OF ELIGIBLE CHARITABLE  
 754 ORGANIZATIONS.—An eligible charitable organization receiving  
 755 contributions under this section must:

756 (a) Conduct background screenings on all volunteers and  
 757 staff working directly with children in any programs funded  
 758 under this section. The background screening shall use level 2  
 759 screening standards pursuant to s. 435.04. The department shall  
 760 specify requirements for background screening in rule.

761 (b) Expend 100 percent of any contributions received under  
 762 this section for direct services to state residents for the  
 763 purposes specified in subparagraph (2) (a)3.

764 (c) Annually submit to the department:

765 1. An audit of the eligible charitable organization  
 766 conducted by an independent certified public accountant in  
 767 accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the  
 768 United States, government auditing standards, and rules  
 769 promulgated by the Auditor General. The audit report must  
 770 include a report on financial statements presented in accordance  
 771 with generally accepted accounting principles. The audit report  
 772 must be provided to the department within 180 days after  
 773 completion of the eligible charitable organization's fiscal  
 774 year.

775 2. A copy of the eligible charitable organization's most

776 recent federal Internal Revenue Service Return of Organization  
777 Exempt from Income Tax form (Form 990).

778 (d) Notify the department within 5 business days after the  
779 eligible charitable organization ceases to meet eligibility  
780 requirements or fails to fulfill its responsibilities under this  
781 section.

782 (e) Upon receipt of a contribution, the eligible  
783 charitable organization shall provide the taxpayer that made the  
784 contribution with a certificate of contribution. A certificate  
785 of contribution must include the taxpayer's name and, if  
786 available, federal employer identification number, the amount  
787 contributed, the date of contribution, and the name of the  
788 eligible charitable organization.

789 (4) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT.—The department  
790 shall:

791 (a) Annually redesignate eligible charitable organizations  
792 that have complied with all requirements of this section.

793 (b) Remove the designation of organizations that fail to  
794 meet all requirements of this section. An organization that has  
795 had its designation removed by the department may reapply for  
796 designation as an eligible charitable organization, and the  
797 department shall redesignate such organization if it meets the  
798 requirements of this section and demonstrates through its  
799 application that all factors leading to its previous failure to  
800 meet requirements have been sufficiently addressed.



801 (c) Publish information about the tax credit program and  
802 eligible charitable organizations on a department website. The  
803 website shall, at a minimum, provide:

804 1. The requirements and process for becoming designated or  
805 redesignated as an eligible charitable organization.

806 2. A list of the eligible charitable organizations that  
807 are currently designated by the department and the information  
808 provided under subparagraph (2)(a)5. regarding each eligible  
809 charitable organization.

810 3. The process for a taxpayer to select an eligible  
811 charitable organization as the recipient of funding through a  
812 tax credit.

813 (d) Compel the return of funds that are provided to an  
814 eligible charitable organization that fails to comply with the  
815 requirements of this section. Eligible charitable organizations  
816 that are subject to return of funds are ineligible to receive  
817 funding under this section for a period 10 years after final  
818 agency action to compel the return of funding.

819 (5) CHILDREN'S PROMISE TAX CREDITS; APPLICATIONS,  
820 TRANSFERS, AND LIMITATIONS.-

821 (a) The tax credit cap amount is \$5 million in each state  
822 fiscal year.

823 (b) Beginning October 1, 2020, a taxpayer may submit an  
824 application to the Department of Revenue for a tax credit or  
825 credits to be taken under one or more of s. 211.0252, s.

826 212.1833, s. 220.1876, s. 561.1212, or s. 624.51056.

827 1. The taxpayer shall specify in the application each tax  
828 for which the taxpayer requests a credit and the applicable  
829 taxable year for a credit under s. 220.1876 or s. 624.51056 or  
830 the applicable state fiscal year for a credit under s. 211.0252,  
831 s. 212.1833, or s. 561.1212. For purposes of s. 220.1876, a  
832 taxpayer may apply for a credit to be used for a prior taxable  
833 year before the date the taxpayer is required to file a return  
834 for that year pursuant to s. 220.222. For purposes of s.  
835 624.51056, a taxpayer may apply for a credit to be used for a  
836 prior taxable year before the date the taxpayer is required to  
837 file a return for that prior taxable year pursuant to ss.  
838 624.509 and 624.5092. The application must specify the eligible  
839 charitable organization to which the proposed contribution will  
840 be made. The Department of Revenue shall approve tax credits on  
841 a first-come, first-served basis and must obtain the division's  
842 approval before approving a tax credit under s. 561.1212.

843 2. Within 10 days after approving or denying an  
844 application, the Department of Revenue shall provide a copy of  
845 its approval or denial letter to the eligible charitable  
846 organization specified by the taxpayer in the application.

847 (c) If a tax credit approved under paragraph (b) is not  
848 fully used within the specified state fiscal year for credits  
849 under s. 211.0252, s. 212.1833, or s. 561.1212 or against taxes  
850 due for the specified taxable year for credits under s. 220.1876

851 or s. 624.51056 because of insufficient tax liability on the  
852 part of the taxpayer, the unused amount shall be carried forward  
853 for a period not to exceed 10 years. For purposes of s.  
854 220.1876, a credit carried forward may be used in a subsequent  
855 year after applying the other credits and unused carryovers in  
856 the order provided in s. 220.02(8).

857 (d) A taxpayer may not convey, assign, or transfer an  
858 approved tax credit or a carryforward tax credit to another  
859 entity unless all of the assets of the taxpayer are conveyed,  
860 assigned, or transferred in the same transaction. However, a tax  
861 credit under s. 211.0252, s. 212.1833, s. 220.1876, s. 561.1212,  
862 or s. 624.51056 may be conveyed, transferred, or assigned  
863 between members of an affiliated group of corporations if the  
864 type of tax credit under s. 211.0252, s. 212.1833, s. 220.1876,  
865 s. 561.1212, or s. 624.51056 remains the same. A taxpayer shall  
866 notify the Department of Revenue of its intent to convey,  
867 transfer, or assign a tax credit to another member within an  
868 affiliated group of corporations. The amount conveyed,  
869 transferred, or assigned is available to another member of the  
870 affiliated group of corporations upon approval by the Department  
871 of Revenue. The Department of Revenue shall obtain the  
872 division's approval before approving a conveyance, transfer, or  
873 assignment of a tax credit under s. 561.1212.

874 (e) Within any state fiscal year, a taxpayer may rescind  
875 all or part of a tax credit approved under paragraph (b). The

876 amount rescinded shall become available for that state fiscal  
877 year to another eligible taxpayer as approved by the Department  
878 of Revenue if the taxpayer receives notice from the Department  
879 of Revenue that the rescindment has been accepted by the  
880 Department of Revenue. The Department of Revenue must obtain the  
881 division's approval before accepting the rescindment of a tax  
882 credit under s. 561.1212. Any amount rescinded under this  
883 paragraph shall become available to an eligible taxpayer on a  
884 first-come, first-served basis based on tax credit applications  
885 received after the date the rescindment is accepted by the  
886 Department of Revenue.

887 (f) Within 10 days after approving or denying the  
888 conveyance, transfer, or assignment of a tax credit under  
889 paragraph (d), or the rescindment of a tax credit under  
890 paragraph (e), the Department of Revenue shall provide a copy of  
891 its approval or denial letter to the eligible charitable  
892 organization specified by the taxpayer. The Department of  
893 Revenue shall also include the eligible charitable organization  
894 specified by the taxpayer on all letters or correspondence of  
895 acknowledgment for tax credits under s. 212.1833.

896 (g) For purposes of calculating the underpayment of  
897 estimated corporate income taxes under s. 220.34 and tax  
898 installment payments for taxes on insurance premiums or  
899 assessments under s. 624.5092, the final amount due is the  
900 amount after credits earned under s. 220.1876 or s. 624.51056

901 for contributions to eligible charitable organizations are  
902 deducted.

903 1. For purposes of determining if a penalty or interest  
904 under s. 220.34(2)(d)1. shall be imposed for underpayment of  
905 estimated corporate income tax, a taxpayer may, after earning a  
906 credit under s. 220.1876, reduce any estimated payment in that  
907 taxable year by the amount of the credit.

908 2. For purposes of determining if a penalty under s.  
909 624.5092 shall be imposed, an insurer, after earning a credit  
910 under s. 624.51056 for a taxable year, may reduce any  
911 installment payment for such taxable year of 27 percent of the  
912 amount of the net tax due as reported on the return for the  
913 preceding year under s. 624.5092(2)(b) by the amount of the  
914 credit.

915 (6) PRESERVATION OF CREDIT.—If any provision or portion of  
916 this section, s. 211.0252, s. 212.1833, s. 220.1876, s.  
917 561.1212, or s. 624.51056 or the application thereof to any  
918 person or circumstance is held unconstitutional by any court or  
919 is otherwise declared invalid, the unconstitutionality or  
920 invalidity shall not affect any credit earned under s. 211.0252,  
921 s. 212.1833, s. 220.1876, s. 561.1212, or s. 624.51056 by any  
922 taxpayer with respect to any contribution paid to an eligible  
923 charitable organization before the date of a determination of  
924 unconstitutionality or invalidity. The credit shall be allowed  
925 at such time and in such a manner as if a determination of

926 unconstitutionality or invalidity had not been made, provided  
927 that nothing in this subsection by itself or in combination with  
928 any other provision of law shall result in the allowance of any  
929 credit to any taxpayer in excess of one dollar of credit for  
930 each dollar paid to an eligible charitable organization.

931 (7) ADMINISTRATION; RULES.—

932 (a) The Department of Revenue, the division, and the  
933 department may develop a cooperative agreement to assist in the  
934 administration of this section, as needed.

935 (b) The Department of Revenue may adopt rules necessary to  
936 administer this section and ss. 211.0252, 212.1833, 220.1876,  
937 561.1212, and 624.51056, including rules establishing  
938 application forms, procedures governing the approval of tax  
939 credits and carryforward tax credits under subsection (5), and  
940 procedures to be followed by taxpayers when claiming approved  
941 tax credits on their returns.

942 (c) The division may adopt rules necessary to administer  
943 its responsibilities under this section and s. 561.1212.

944 (d) The department may adopt rules necessary to administer  
945 this section, including, but not limited to, rules establishing  
946 application forms for organizations seeking designation as  
947 eligible charitable organizations under this act.

948 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of s. 213.053 to the  
949 contrary, sharing information with the division related to this  
950 tax credit is considered the conduct of the Department of

951 Revenue's official duties as contemplated in s. 213.053(8)(c),  
952 and the Department of Revenue and the division are specifically  
953 authorized to share information as needed to administer this  
954 program.

955 Section 13. Section 402.715, Florida Statutes, is created  
956 to read:

957 402.715 Office of Quality.—The department shall establish  
958 a department-wide Office of Quality to ensure that the  
959 department and its contracted service providers achieve high  
960 levels of performance. Duties of the office include, but are not  
961 limited to:

962 (1) Identifying performance standards and metrics for the  
963 department and all contracted service providers, including, but  
964 not limited to, law enforcement agencies, managing entities,  
965 community-based care lead agencies, and attorney services. Such  
966 performance standards and metrics shall be reflected in the  
967 strategic plan required under s. 20.19(1). Performance standards  
968 and metrics for the child welfare system shall at a minimum  
969 incorporate measures used in the results-oriented accountability  
970 system under s. 409.997.

971 (2) Strengthening the department's data and analytic  
972 capabilities to identify systemic strengths and deficiencies.

973 (3) Recommending, in consultation with the relevant  
974 program office, initiatives to correct programmatic and systemic  
975 deficiencies.

976        (4) Engaging and collaborating with contractors,  
 977        stakeholders, and other relevant entities to improve quality,  
 978        efficiency, and effectiveness of department programs and  
 979        services.

980        (5) Reporting systemic or persistent failures to meet  
 981        performance standards and recommending corrective action to the  
 982        secretary.

983        Section 14. Section 402.7305, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 984        to read:

985        402.7305 Department of Children and Families; procurement  
 986        of contractual services; contract management.—

987        (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

988        (a) "Contract manager" means the department employee who  
 989        is responsible for enforcing the compliance with administrative  
 990        and programmatic terms and conditions of a contract. The  
 991        contract manager is the primary point of contact through which  
 992        all contracting information flows between the department and the  
 993        contractor. The contract manager is responsible for day-to-day  
 994        contract oversight, including approval of contract deliverables  
 995        and invoices. All actions related to the contract shall be  
 996        initiated by or coordinated with the contract manager. The  
 997        contract manager maintains the official contract files.

998        (b) "Contract monitor" means the department employee who  
 999        is responsible for observing, recording, and reporting to the  
 1000        contract manager and other designated entities the information



1001 necessary to assist the contract manager and program management  
 1002 in determining whether the contractor is in compliance with the  
 1003 administrative and programmatic terms and conditions of the  
 1004 contract.

1005 (c) "Department" means the Department of Children and  
 1006 Families.

1007 (d) "Outsourcing" means the process of contracting with an  
 1008 external service provider to provide a service, in whole or in  
 1009 part, while the department retains the responsibility and  
 1010 accountability for the service.

1011 (2) PROCUREMENT OF COMMODITIES AND CONTRACTUAL SERVICES.—

1012 (a) Notwithstanding s. 287.057(3)(e)12., if the department  
 1013 intends to contract with a public postsecondary institution to  
 1014 provide a service, the department must allow all public  
 1015 postsecondary institutions in this state that are accredited by  
 1016 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to bid on the  
 1017 contract. Thereafter, notwithstanding any other provision of  
 1018 law, if a public postsecondary institution intends to  
 1019 subcontract for any service awarded in the contract, the  
 1020 subcontracted service must be procured by competitive  
 1021 procedures.

1022 (b) When it is in the best interest of a defined segment  
 1023 of its consumer population, the department may competitively  
 1024 procure and contract for systems of treatment or service that  
 1025 involve multiple providers, rather than procuring and

1026 | contracting for treatment or services separately from each  
1027 | participating provider. The department must ensure that all  
1028 | providers that participate in the treatment or service system  
1029 | meet all applicable statutory, regulatory, service quality, and  
1030 | cost control requirements. If other governmental entities or  
1031 | units of special purpose government contribute matching funds to  
1032 | the support of a given system of treatment or service, the  
1033 | department shall formally request information from those funding  
1034 | entities in the procurement process and may take the information  
1035 | received into account in the selection process. If a local  
1036 | government contributes matching funds to support the system of  
1037 | treatment or contracted service and if the match constitutes at  
1038 | least 25 percent of the value of the contract, the department  
1039 | shall afford the governmental match contributor an opportunity  
1040 | to name an employee as one of the persons required by s.  
1041 | 287.057(16) to evaluate or negotiate certain contracts, unless  
1042 | the department sets forth in writing the reason why the  
1043 | inclusion would be contrary to the best interest of the state.  
1044 | Any employee so named by the governmental match contributor  
1045 | shall qualify as one of the persons required by s. 287.057(16).  
1046 | A governmental entity or unit of special purpose government may  
1047 | not name an employee as one of the persons required by s.  
1048 | 287.057(16) if it, or any of its political subdivisions,  
1049 | executive agencies, or special districts, intends to compete for  
1050 | the contract to be awarded. The governmental funding entity or

1051 contributor of matching funds must comply with all procurement  
1052 procedures set forth in s. 287.057 when appropriate and  
1053 required.

1054 (c) The department may procure and contract for or provide  
1055 assessment and case management services independently from  
1056 treatment services.

1057 (3) CONTRACT MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS.—The  
1058 Department of Children and Families shall review the time period  
1059 for which the department executes contracts and shall execute  
1060 multiyear contracts to make the most efficient use of the  
1061 resources devoted to contract processing and execution. Whenever  
1062 the department chooses not to use a multiyear contract, a  
1063 justification for that decision must be contained in the  
1064 contract. Notwithstanding s. 287.057(14), the department is  
1065 responsible for establishing a contract management process that  
1066 requires a member of the department's Senior Management or  
1067 Selected Exempt Service to assign in writing the responsibility  
1068 of a contract to a contract manager. The department shall  
1069 maintain a set of procedures describing its contract management  
1070 process which must minimally include the following requirements:

1071 (a) The contract manager shall maintain the official  
1072 contract file throughout the duration of the contract and for a  
1073 period not less than 6 years after the termination of the  
1074 contract.

1075 (b) The contract manager shall review all invoices for

1076 compliance with the criteria and payment schedule provided for  
1077 in the contract and shall approve payment of all invoices before  
1078 their transmission to the Department of Financial Services for  
1079 payment.

1080 (c) The contract manager shall maintain a schedule of  
1081 payments and total amounts disbursed and shall periodically  
1082 reconcile the records with the state's official accounting  
1083 records.

1084 (d) For contracts involving the provision of direct client  
1085 services, the contract manager shall periodically visit the  
1086 physical location where the services are delivered and speak  
1087 directly to clients receiving the services and the staff  
1088 responsible for delivering the services.

1089 (e) The contract manager shall meet at least once a month  
1090 directly with the contractor's representative and maintain  
1091 records of such meetings.

1092 (f) The contract manager shall periodically document any  
1093 differences between the required performance measures and the  
1094 actual performance measures. If a contractor fails to meet and  
1095 comply with the performance measures established in the  
1096 contract, the department may allow a reasonable period for the  
1097 contractor to correct performance deficiencies. If performance  
1098 deficiencies are not resolved to the satisfaction of the  
1099 department within the prescribed time, and if no extenuating  
1100 circumstances can be documented by the contractor to the

1101 department's satisfaction, the department must terminate the  
 1102 contract. The department may not enter into a new contract with  
 1103 that same contractor for the services for which the contract was  
 1104 previously terminated for a period of at least 24 months after  
 1105 the date of termination. The contract manager shall obtain and  
 1106 enforce corrective action plans, if appropriate, and maintain  
 1107 records regarding the completion or failure to complete  
 1108 corrective action items.

1109 (g) The contract manager shall document any contract  
 1110 modifications, which shall include recording any contract  
 1111 amendments as provided for in this section.

1112 (h) The contract manager shall be properly trained before  
 1113 being assigned responsibility for any contract.

1114 (4) CONTRACT MONITORING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS.—The  
 1115 department shall establish contract monitoring units staffed by  
 1116 career service employees who report to a member of the Selected  
 1117 Exempt Service or Senior Management Service and who have been  
 1118 properly trained to perform contract monitoring. At least one  
 1119 member of the contract monitoring unit must possess specific  
 1120 knowledge and experience in the contract's program area. The  
 1121 department shall establish a contract monitoring process that  
 1122 includes, but is not limited to, the following requirements:

1123 (a) Performing a risk assessment at the start of each  
 1124 fiscal year and preparing an annual contract monitoring schedule  
 1125 that considers the level of risk assigned. The department may

1126 | monitor any contract at any time regardless of whether such  
 1127 | monitoring was originally included in the annual contract  
 1128 | monitoring schedule.

1129 |       (b) Preparing a contract monitoring plan, including  
 1130 | sampling procedures, before performing onsite monitoring at  
 1131 | external locations of a service provider. The plan must include  
 1132 | a description of the programmatic, fiscal, and administrative  
 1133 | components that will be monitored on site. If appropriate,  
 1134 | clinical and therapeutic components may be included.

1135 |       (c) Conducting analyses of the performance and compliance  
 1136 | of an external service provider by means of desk reviews if the  
 1137 | external service provider will not be monitored on site during a  
 1138 | fiscal year.

1139 |       (d) Unless the department sets forth in writing the need  
 1140 | for an extension, providing a written report presenting the  
 1141 | results of the monitoring within 30 days after the completion of  
 1142 | the onsite monitoring or desk review.

1143 |       (e) Developing and maintaining a set of procedures  
 1144 | describing the contract monitoring process.

1145 |  
 1146 | ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the~~  
 1147 | ~~department shall limit monitoring of a child-caring or child-~~  
 1148 | ~~placing services provider under this subsection to only once per~~  
 1149 | ~~year. Such monitoring may not duplicate administrative~~  
 1150 | ~~monitoring that is included in the survey of a child welfare~~

1151 ~~provider conducted by a national accreditation organization~~  
1152 ~~specified under s. 402.7306(1).~~

1153 Section 15. Paragraph (1) is added to subsection (1) of  
1154 section 409.988, Florida Statutes, to read:

1155 409.988 Lead agency duties; general provisions.—

1156 (1) DUTIES.—A lead agency:

1157 (1) Shall identify an employee to serve as a liaison with  
1158 the community alliance and community-based and faith-based  
1159 organizations interested in collaborating with the lead agency  
1160 or offering services or other assistance on a volunteer basis to  
1161 the children and families served by the lead agency. The lead  
1162 agency shall ensure that appropriate lead agency staff and  
1163 subcontractors, including, but not limited to, case managers,  
1164 are informed of the specific services or assistance available  
1165 from community-based and faith-based organizations.

1166 Section 16. Section 409.996, Florida Statutes, is amended  
1167 to read:

1168 409.996 Duties of the Department of Children and  
1169 Families.—The department shall contract for the delivery,  
1170 administration, or management of care for children in the child  
1171 protection and child welfare system. In doing so, the department  
1172 retains responsibility for the quality of contracted services  
1173 and programs and shall ensure that, at a minimum, services are  
1174 delivered in accordance with applicable federal and state  
1175 statutes and regulations and the performance standards and

1176 metrics specified in the strategic plan created under s.  
 1177 20.19(1).

1178 (1) The department shall enter into contracts with lead  
 1179 agencies for the performance of the duties by the lead agencies  
 1180 established in ~~pursuant to~~ s. 409.988. At a minimum, the  
 1181 contracts must:

1182 (a) Provide for the services needed to accomplish the  
 1183 duties established in s. 409.988 and provide information to the  
 1184 department which is necessary to meet the requirements for a  
 1185 quality assurance program under ~~pursuant to~~ subsection (19) ~~(18)~~  
 1186 and the child welfare results-oriented accountability system  
 1187 under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 409.997.

1188 (b) Provide for tiered interventions and graduated  
 1189 penalties for failure to comply with contract terms or in the  
 1190 event of performance deficiencies. Such interventions and  
 1191 penalties shall ~~may~~ include, but are not limited to:

1192 1. ~~financial penalties,~~ Enhanced monitoring and  
 1193 reporting.

1194 2. Corrective action plans. ~~and~~

1195 3. Requirements to accept technical assistance and  
 1196 consultation from the department under subsection (4).

1197 4. Financial penalties, which shall require a lead agency  
 1198 to reallocate funds from administrative costs to direct care for  
 1199 children.

1200 5. Early termination of contracts, as provided in s.



1201 402.1705(3)(f) ~~or other appropriate action to ensure contract~~  
1202 ~~compliance. The financial penalties shall require a lead agency~~  
1203 ~~to reallocate funds from administrative costs to direct care for~~  
1204 ~~children.~~

1205 (c) Ensure that the lead agency shall furnish current and  
1206 accurate information on its activities in all cases in client  
1207 case records in the state's statewide automated child welfare  
1208 information system.

1209 (d) Specify the procedures to be used by the parties to  
1210 resolve differences in interpreting the contract or to resolve  
1211 disputes as to the adequacy of the parties' compliance with  
1212 their respective obligations under the contract.

1213 (2) The department must adopt written policies and  
1214 procedures for monitoring the contract for delivery of services  
1215 by lead agencies which must be posted on the department's  
1216 website. These policies and procedures must, at a minimum,  
1217 address the evaluation of fiscal accountability and program  
1218 operations, including provider achievement of performance  
1219 standards, provider monitoring of subcontractors, and timely  
1220 followup of corrective actions for significant monitoring  
1221 findings related to providers and subcontractors. These policies  
1222 and procedures must also include provisions for reducing the  
1223 duplication of the department's program monitoring activities  
1224 both internally and with other agencies, to the extent possible.  
1225 The department's written procedures must ensure that the written

1226 findings, conclusions, and recommendations from monitoring the  
1227 contract for services of lead agencies are communicated to the  
1228 director of the provider agency and the community alliance as  
1229 expeditiously as possible.

1230 (3) The department shall receive federal and state funds  
1231 as appropriated for the operation of the child welfare system,  
1232 transmit these funds to the lead agencies as agreed to in the  
1233 contract, and provide information on its website of the  
1234 distribution of the federal funds. The department retains  
1235 responsibility for the appropriate spending of these funds. The  
1236 department shall monitor lead agencies to assess compliance with  
1237 the financial guidelines established under ~~pursuant to~~ s.  
1238 409.992 and other applicable state and federal laws.

1239 (4) The department may ~~shall~~ provide technical assistance  
1240 and consultation to lead agencies as necessary for the  
1241 achievement of performance standards, including, but not limited  
1242 to, providing additional resources to assist the lead agencies  
1243 to implement best practices or institute operational  
1244 efficiencies ~~in the provision of care to children in the child~~  
1245 ~~protection and child welfare system.~~

1246 (5) The department retains the responsibility for the  
1247 review, approval or denial, and issuances of all foster home  
1248 licenses.

1249 (6) The department shall process all applications  
1250 submitted by lead agencies for the Interstate Compact on the

1251 Placement of Children and the Interstate Compact on Adoption and  
1252 Medical Assistance.

1253 (7) The department shall assist lead agencies with access  
1254 to and coordination with other service programs within the  
1255 department.

1256 (8) The department shall determine Medicaid eligibility  
1257 for all referred children and shall coordinate services with the  
1258 Agency for Health Care Administration.

1259 (9) The department shall develop, in cooperation with the  
1260 lead agencies, a third-party credentialing entity approved under  
1261 ~~pursuant to~~ s. 402.40(3), and the Florida Institute for Child  
1262 Welfare established under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1004.615, a  
1263 standardized competency-based curriculum for certification  
1264 training for child protection staff.

1265 (10) The department shall maintain the statewide adoptions  
1266 website and provide information and training to the lead  
1267 agencies relating to the website.

1268 (11) The department shall provide training and assistance  
1269 to lead agencies regarding the responsibility of lead agencies  
1270 relating to children receiving supplemental security income,  
1271 social security, railroad retirement, or veterans' benefits.

1272 (12) With the assistance of a lead agency, the department  
1273 shall develop and implement statewide and local interagency  
1274 agreements needed to coordinate services for children and  
1275 parents involved in the child welfare system who are also

1276 involved with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the  
 1277 Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Education, the  
 1278 Department of Health, and other governmental organizations that  
 1279 share responsibilities for children or parents in the child  
 1280 welfare system.

1281 (13) With the assistance of a lead agency, the department  
 1282 shall develop and implement a working agreement between the lead  
 1283 agency and the substance abuse and mental health managing entity  
 1284 to integrate services and supports for children and parents  
 1285 serviced in the child welfare system.

1286 (14) The department shall work with the Agency for Health  
 1287 Care Administration to provide each Medicaid-eligible child with  
 1288 early and periodic screening, diagnosis, and treatment,  
 1289 including 72-hour screening, periodic child health checkups, and  
 1290 prescribed followup for ordered services, including, but not  
 1291 limited to, medical, dental, and vision care.

1292 (15) The department shall assist lead agencies in  
 1293 developing an array of services in compliance with the Title IV-  
 1294 E waiver and shall monitor the provision of such services.

1295 (16) The department shall provide a mechanism to allow  
 1296 lead agencies to request a waiver of department policies and  
 1297 procedures that create inefficiencies or inhibit the performance  
 1298 of the lead agency's duties.

1299 (17) The department shall directly ~~or through contract~~  
 1300 provide attorneys to prepare and present cases in dependency

1301 court and shall ensure that the court is provided with adequate  
 1302 information for informed decisionmaking in dependency cases,  
 1303 including, at a minimum, a face sheet for each case which lists  
 1304 the names and contact information for any child protective  
 1305 investigator, child protective investigation supervisor, case  
 1306 manager, and case manager supervisor, and the regional  
 1307 department official responsible for the lead agency contract.  
 1308 The department shall provide to the court the case information  
 1309 and recommendations provided by the lead agency or  
 1310 subcontractor. ~~For the Sixth Judicial Circuit, the department~~  
 1311 ~~shall contract with the state attorney for the provision of~~  
 1312 ~~these services.~~

1313 (18) (a) The department may contract for the provision of  
 1314 children's legal services to prepare and present cases in  
 1315 dependency court. The contracted attorneys shall ensure that the  
 1316 court is provided with adequate information for informed  
 1317 decisionmaking in dependency cases, including, at a minimum, a  
 1318 face sheet for each case which lists the names and contact  
 1319 information for any child protective investigator, child  
 1320 protective investigator supervisor, and the regional department  
 1321 official responsible for the lead agency contract. The  
 1322 contracted attorneys shall provide to the court the case  
 1323 information and recommendations provided by the lead agency or  
 1324 subcontractor. For the Sixth Judicial Circuit, the department  
 1325 shall contract with the state attorney for the provision of

1326 these services.

1327 (b) The contracted attorneys shall adopt the child welfare  
1328 practice model, as periodically updated by the department, that  
1329 is used by attorneys employed by the department. The contracted  
1330 attorneys shall operate in accordance with the same federal and  
1331 state performance standards and metrics imposed on children's  
1332 legal services attorneys employed by the department.

1333 (c) The department and contracted attorneys providing  
1334 children's legal services shall collaborate to monitor program  
1335 performance on an ongoing basis. The department and contracted  
1336 attorneys, or a representative from such contracted attorneys'  
1337 offices, shall meet at least quarterly to collaborate on federal  
1338 and state quality assurance and quality improvement initiatives.

1339 (d) The department shall conduct an annual program  
1340 performance evaluation which shall be based on the same child  
1341 welfare practice model principles and federal and state  
1342 performance standards that are imposed on children's legal  
1343 services attorneys employed by the department. The program  
1344 performance evaluation must be standardized statewide and the  
1345 department shall select random cases for evaluation. The program  
1346 performance evaluation shall be conducted by a team of peer  
1347 reviewers from the respective contracted attorneys' offices that  
1348 perform children's legal services and representatives from the  
1349 department.

1350 (e) The department shall publish an annual report

1351 regarding, at a minimum, performance quality, outcome-measure  
1352 attainment, and cost efficiency of the services provided by the  
1353 contracted attorneys. The annual report must include data and  
1354 information on the performance of both the contracted attorneys  
1355 and the department's attorneys. The department shall submit the  
1356 annual report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and  
1357 the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than  
1358 November 1 of each year that the contracted attorneys are  
1359 receiving appropriations to provide children's legal services  
1360 for the department.

1361  
1362 This subsection shall be repealed July 1, 2023, unless reviewed  
1363 and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

1364 (19)~~(18)~~ The department, in consultation with lead  
1365 agencies, shall establish a quality assurance program for  
1366 contracted services to dependent children. The quality assurance  
1367 program shall, at a minimum, be based on standards established  
1368 by federal and state law, and national accrediting  
1369 organizations, and the Office of Quality established under s.  
1370 402.715, and must be consistent with the child welfare results-  
1371 oriented accountability system required by s. 409.997.

1372 (a) The department must evaluate each lead agency under  
1373 contract at least annually. These evaluations shall cover the  
1374 programmatic, operational, and fiscal operations of the lead  
1375 agency ~~and must be consistent with the child welfare results-~~

1376 ~~oriented accountability system required by s. 409.997.~~ The  
1377 department must consult with dependency judges in the circuit or  
1378 circuits served by the lead agency on the performance of the  
1379 lead agency.

1380 (b) The department and each lead agency shall monitor out-  
1381 of-home placements, including the extent to which sibling groups  
1382 are placed together or provisions to provide visitation and  
1383 other contacts if siblings are separated. The data shall  
1384 identify reasons for sibling separation. Information related to  
1385 sibling placement shall be incorporated into the results-  
1386 oriented accountability system required under ~~pursuant to~~ s.  
1387 409.997 and into the evaluation of the outcome specified in s.  
1388 409.986(2)(e). The information related to sibling placement  
1389 shall also be made available to the institute established under  
1390 ~~pursuant~~ s. 1004.615 for use in assessing the performance of  
1391 child welfare services in relation to the outcome specified in  
1392 s. 409.986(2)(e).

1393 (c) The department shall, to the extent possible, use  
1394 independent financial audits provided by the lead agency to  
1395 eliminate or reduce the ongoing contract and administrative  
1396 reviews conducted by the department. If the department  
1397 determines that such independent financial audits are  
1398 inadequate, other audits, as necessary, may be conducted by the  
1399 department. This paragraph does not abrogate the requirements of  
1400 s. 215.97.



1401 (d) The department may suggest additional items to be  
1402 included in such independent financial audits to meet the  
1403 department's needs.

1404 (e) The department may outsource programmatic,  
1405 administrative, or fiscal monitoring oversight of lead agencies.

1406 (f) A lead agency must assure that all subcontractors are  
1407 subject to the same quality assurance activities as the lead  
1408 agency.

1409 ~~(20)~~~~(19)~~ The department and its attorneys, including  
1410 contracted attorneys, have the responsibility to ensure that the  
1411 court is fully informed about issues before it, to make  
1412 recommendations to the court, and to present competent evidence,  
1413 including testimony by the department's employees, contractors,  
1414 and subcontractors, as well as other individuals, to support all  
1415 recommendations made to the court. The department's attorneys  
1416 shall coordinate lead agency or subcontractor staff to ensure  
1417 that dependency cases are presented appropriately to the court,  
1418 giving consideration to the information developed by the case  
1419 manager and direction to the case manager if more information is  
1420 needed.

1421 ~~(21)~~~~(20)~~ The department, in consultation with lead  
1422 agencies, shall develop a dispute resolution process so that  
1423 disagreements between legal staff, investigators, and case  
1424 management staff can be resolved in the best interest of the  
1425 child in question before court appearances regarding that child.

1426        (22)~~(21)~~ The department shall periodically, and before  
 1427        procuring a lead agency, solicit comments and recommendations  
 1428        from the community alliance established in s. 20.19(5), any  
 1429        other community groups, or public hearings. The recommendations  
 1430        must include, but are not limited to:

1431            (a) The current and past performance of a lead agency.

1432            (b) The relationship between a lead agency and its  
 1433        community partners.

1434            (c) Any local conditions or service needs in child  
 1435        protection and child welfare.

1436        (23)~~(22)~~ The department shall develop, in collaboration  
 1437        with the Florida Institute for Child Welfare, lead agencies,  
 1438        service providers, current and former foster children placed in  
 1439        residential group care, and other community stakeholders, a  
 1440        statewide accountability system for residential group care  
 1441        providers based on measureable quality standards.

1442            (a) The accountability system must:

1443            1. Promote high quality in services and accommodations,  
 1444        differentiating between shift and family-style models and  
 1445        programs and services for children with specialized or  
 1446        extraordinary needs, such as pregnant teens and children with  
 1447        Department of Juvenile Justice involvement.

1448            2. Include a quality measurement system with domains and  
 1449        clearly defined levels of quality. The system must measure the  
 1450        level of quality for each domain, using criteria that

1451 residential group care providers must meet in order to achieve  
1452 each level of quality. Domains may include, but are not limited  
1453 to, admissions, service planning, treatment planning, living  
1454 environment, and program and service requirements. The system  
1455 may also consider outcomes 6 months and 12 months after a child  
1456 leaves the provider's care. However, the system may not assign a  
1457 single summary rating to residential group care providers.

1458 3. Consider the level of availability of trauma-informed  
1459 care and mental health and physical health services, providers'  
1460 engagement with the schools children in their care attend, and  
1461 opportunities for children's involvement in extracurricular  
1462 activities.

1463 (b) After development and implementation of the  
1464 accountability system in accordance with paragraph (a), the  
1465 department and each lead agency shall use the information from  
1466 the accountability system to promote enhanced quality in  
1467 residential group care within their respective areas of  
1468 responsibility. Such promotion may include, but is not limited  
1469 to, the use of incentives and ongoing contract monitoring  
1470 efforts.

1471 (c) The department shall submit a report to the Governor,  
1472 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
1473 Representatives by October 1 of each year, ~~with the first report~~  
1474 ~~due October 1, 2017~~. The report must, at a minimum, include an  
1475 update on the development of a statewide accountability system

1476 for residential group care providers and a plan for department  
1477 oversight and implementation of the statewide accountability  
1478 system. After implementation of the statewide accountability  
1479 system, the report must also include a description of the  
1480 system, including measures and any tools developed, a  
1481 description of how the information is being used by the  
1482 department and lead agencies, an assessment of placement of  
1483 children in residential group care using data from the  
1484 accountability system measures, and recommendations to further  
1485 improve quality in residential group care.

1486 (d) The accountability system must be implemented by July  
1487 1, 2022.

1488 (e) Nothing in this subsection impairs the department's  
1489 licensure authority under s. 409.175.

1490 (f) The department may adopt rules to administer this  
1491 subsection.

1492 (24) Subject to an appropriation, for the 2020-2021 and  
1493 2021-2022 fiscal years, the department shall implement a pilot  
1494 project in the Sixth and Thirteenth Judicial Circuits,  
1495 respectively, aimed at improving child welfare outcomes.

1496 (a) In implementing the pilot projects, the department  
1497 shall establish performance metrics and performance standards to  
1498 assess improvements in safety, permanency, and the well-being of  
1499 children in the local system of care for the lead agencies in  
1500 those judicial circuits. Such metrics and standards must be

1501 aligned with indicators used in the most recent federal Child  
1502 and Family Services Reviews.

1503 (b) The lead agencies in the Sixth and Thirteenth Judicial  
1504 Circuits shall provide performance data to the department each  
1505 quarter. The department shall review the data for accuracy and  
1506 completeness and then shall compare the actual performance of  
1507 the lead agencies to the established performance metrics and  
1508 standards. Each lead agency that exceeds performance metrics and  
1509 standards is eligible for incentive funding.

1510 (c) For the first quarter of each fiscal year, the  
1511 department may advance incentive funding to the lead agencies in  
1512 an amount equal to one quarter of the total allocated to the  
1513 pilot project. After each quarter, the department shall assess  
1514 the performance of the lead agencies for that quarter and adjust  
1515 the subsequent quarter's incentive funding based on its actual  
1516 prior quarter performance.

1517 (d) The department shall include the results of the pilot  
1518 projects in the report required under s. 20.19(7). The report  
1519 must include the department's findings and recommendations  
1520 relating to the pilot projects.

1521 (e) This subsection expires July 1, 2022.

1522 ~~(23) (a) The department, in collaboration with the Florida~~  
1523 ~~Institute for Child Welfare, shall convene a workgroup on foster~~  
1524 ~~home quality. The workgroup, at a minimum, shall identify~~  
1525 ~~measures of foster home quality, review current efforts by lead~~

1526 ~~agencies and subcontractors to enhance foster home quality,~~  
1527 ~~identify barriers to the greater availability of high-quality~~  
1528 ~~foster homes, and recommend additional strategies for assessing~~  
1529 ~~the quality of foster homes and increasing the availability of~~  
1530 ~~high-quality foster homes.~~

1531 ~~(b) The workgroup shall include representatives from the~~  
1532 ~~department, the Florida Institute for Child Welfare, foster~~  
1533 ~~parents, current and former foster children, foster parent~~  
1534 ~~organizations, lead agencies, child-placing agencies, other~~  
1535 ~~service providers, and others as determined by the department.~~

1536 ~~(c) The Florida Institute for Child Welfare shall provide~~  
1537 ~~the workgroup with relevant research on, at a minimum, measures~~  
1538 ~~of quality of foster homes; evidence-supported strategies to~~  
1539 ~~increase the availability of high-quality foster homes, such as~~  
1540 ~~those regarding recruitment, screening, training, retention, and~~  
1541 ~~child placement; descriptions and results of quality improvement~~  
1542 ~~efforts in other jurisdictions; and the root causes of placement~~  
1543 ~~disruption.~~

1544 ~~(d) The department shall submit a report to the Governor,~~  
1545 ~~the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of~~  
1546 ~~Representatives by November 15, 2017. The report shall, at a~~  
1547 ~~minimum:~~

1548 ~~1. Describe the important dimensions of quality for foster~~  
1549 ~~homes;~~

1550 ~~2. Describe the foster home quality enhancement efforts in~~

1551 ~~the state, including, but not limited to, recruitment,~~  
1552 ~~retention, placement procedures, systems change, and quality~~  
1553 ~~measurement programs, and any positive or negative results;~~  
1554 ~~3. Identify barriers to the greater availability of high-~~  
1555 ~~quality foster homes;~~  
1556 ~~4. Discuss available research regarding high-quality~~  
1557 ~~foster homes; and~~  
1558 ~~5. Present a plan for developing and implementing~~  
1559 ~~strategies to increase the availability of high-quality foster~~  
1560 ~~homes. The strategies shall address important elements of~~  
1561 ~~quality, be based on available research, include both~~  
1562 ~~qualitative and quantitative measures of quality, integrate with~~  
1563 ~~the community-based care model, and be respectful of the privacy~~  
1564 ~~and needs of foster parents. The plan shall recommend possible~~  
1565 ~~instruments and measures and identify any changes to general law~~  
1566 ~~or rule necessary for implementation.~~  
1567 Section 17. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 409.997,  
1568 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
1569 409.997 Child welfare results-oriented accountability  
1570 program.—  
1571 (2) The purpose of the results-oriented accountability  
1572 program is to monitor and measure the use of resources, the  
1573 quality and amount of services provided, and child and family  
1574 outcomes. The program includes data analysis, research review,  
1575 and evaluation. The program shall produce an assessment of

1576 individual entities' performance, as well as the performance of  
1577 groups of entities working together on a local, judicial  
1578 circuit, regional, and statewide basis to provide an integrated  
1579 system of care. Data analyzed and communicated through the  
1580 accountability program shall inform the department's development  
1581 and maintenance of an inclusive, interactive, and evidence-  
1582 supported program of quality improvement which promotes  
1583 individual skill building as well as organizational learning.  
1584 The department may use ~~Additionally, outcome~~ data generated by  
1585 the program regarding performance drivers, process improvements,  
1586 short-term and long-term outcomes, and quality improvement  
1587 efforts to determine contract compliance and ~~may be used~~ as the  
1588 basis for payment of performance incentives if funds for such  
1589 payments are made available through the General Appropriations  
1590 Act. The information compiled and utilized in the accountability  
1591 program must incorporate, at a minimum:

1592 (a) Valid and reliable outcome measures for each of the  
1593 goals specified in this subsection. The outcome data set must  
1594 consist of a limited number of understandable measures using  
1595 available data to quantify outcomes as children move through the  
1596 system of care. Such measures may aggregate multiple variables  
1597 that affect the overall achievement of the outcome goals. Valid  
1598 and reliable measures must be based on adequate sample sizes, be  
1599 gathered over suitable time periods, and reflect authentic  
1600 rather than spurious results, and may not be susceptible to



1601 manipulation.

1602 (b) Regular and periodic monitoring activities that track  
1603 the identified outcome measures on a statewide, regional, and  
1604 provider-specific basis. Monitoring reports must identify trends  
1605 and chart progress toward achievement of the goals specified in  
1606 this subsection. The accountability program may not rank or  
1607 compare performance among community-based care regions unless  
1608 adequate and specific adjustments are adopted which account for  
1609 the diversity in regions' demographics, resources, and other  
1610 relevant characteristics. The requirements of the monitoring  
1611 program may be incorporated into the department's quality  
1612 assurance and contract management programs ~~program~~.

1613 (c) An analytical framework that builds on the results of  
1614 the outcomes monitoring procedures and assesses the statistical  
1615 validity of observed associations between child welfare  
1616 interventions and the measured outcomes. The analysis must use  
1617 quantitative methods to adjust for variations in demographic or  
1618 other conditions. The analysis must include longitudinal studies  
1619 to evaluate longer term outcomes, such as continued safety,  
1620 family permanence, and transition to self-sufficiency. The  
1621 analysis may also include qualitative research methods to  
1622 provide insight into statistical patterns.

1623 (d) A program of research review to identify interventions  
1624 that are supported by evidence as causally linked to improved  
1625 outcomes.

1626 (e) An ongoing process of evaluation to determine the  
1627 efficacy and effectiveness of various interventions. Efficacy  
1628 evaluation is intended to determine the validity of a causal  
1629 relationship between an intervention and an outcome.  
1630 Effectiveness evaluation is intended to determine the extent to  
1631 which the results can be generalized.

1632 (f) Procedures for making the results of the  
1633 accountability program transparent for all parties involved in  
1634 the child welfare system as well as policymakers and the public,  
1635 which shall be updated at least quarterly and published on the  
1636 department's website in a manner that allows custom searches of  
1637 the performance data. The presentation of the data shall provide  
1638 a comprehensible, visual report card for the state and each  
1639 community-based care region, indicating the current status of  
1640 the outcomes relative to each goal and trends in that status  
1641 over time. The presentation shall identify and report outcome  
1642 measures that assess the performance of the department, the  
1643 community-based care lead agencies, and their subcontractors  
1644 working together to provide an integrated system of care.

1645 (g) An annual performance report that is provided to  
1646 interested parties including the dependency judge or judges in  
1647 the community-based care service area. The report shall be  
1648 submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
1649 Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 1 of each  
1650 year.

1651 ~~(3) The department shall establish a technical advisory~~  
1652 ~~panel consisting of representatives from the Florida Institute~~  
1653 ~~for Child Welfare established pursuant to s. 1004.615, lead~~  
1654 ~~agencies, community-based care providers, other contract~~  
1655 ~~providers, community alliances, and family representatives. The~~  
1656 ~~President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of~~  
1657 ~~Representatives shall each appoint a member to serve as a~~  
1658 ~~legislative liaison to the panel. The technical advisory panel~~  
1659 ~~shall advise the department on the implementation of the~~  
1660 ~~results-oriented accountability program.~~

1661 Section 17. Section 561.1212, Florida Statutes, is created  
1662 to read:

1663 561.1212 Credit for contributions to eligible charitable  
1664 organizations.—Beginning January 1, 2021, there is allowed a  
1665 credit of 100 percent of an eligible contribution made to an  
1666 eligible charitable organization under s. 402.62 against any tax  
1667 due under s. 563.05, s. 564.06, or s. 565.12, except excise  
1668 taxes imposed on wine produced by manufacturers in this state  
1669 from products grown in this state. However, a credit allowed  
1670 under this section may not exceed 90 percent of the tax due on  
1671 the return the credit is taken. For purposes of the  
1672 distributions of tax revenue under ss. 561.121 and 564.06(10),  
1673 the division shall disregard any tax credits allowed under this  
1674 section to ensure that any reduction in tax revenue received  
1675 that is attributable to the tax credits results only in a

1676 reduction in distributions to the General Revenue Fund. The  
1677 provisions of s. 402.62 apply to the credit authorized by this  
1678 section.

1679 Section 18. Section 624.51056, Florida Statutes, is  
1680 created to read:

1681 624.51056 Credit for contributions to eligible charitable  
1682 organizations.—

1683 (1) Beginning January 1, 2021, there is allowed a credit  
1684 of 100 percent of an eligible contribution made to an eligible  
1685 charitable organization under s. 402.62 against any tax due for  
1686 a taxable year under s. 624.509(1) after deducting from such tax  
1687 deductions for assessments made pursuant to s. 440.51; credits  
1688 for taxes paid under ss. 175.101 and 185.08; credits for income  
1689 taxes paid under chapter 220; and the credit allowed under s.  
1690 624.509(5), as such credit is limited by s. 624.509(6). An  
1691 eligible contribution must be made to an eligible charitable  
1692 organization on or before the date the taxpayer is required to  
1693 file a return pursuant to ss. 624.509 and 624.5092. An insurer  
1694 claiming a credit against premium tax liability under this  
1695 section shall not be required to pay any additional retaliatory  
1696 tax levied under s. 624.5091 as a result of claiming such  
1697 credit. Section 624.5091 does not limit such credit in any  
1698 manner.

1699 (2) The provisions of s. 402.62 apply to the credit  
1700 authorized by this section.

1701 Section 19. Subsections (6) and (7) of section 1004.615,  
1702 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (9) and (10),  
1703 respectively, and new subsections (6), (7), and (8) are added to  
1704 that section, to read:

1705 1004.615 Florida Institute for Child Welfare.—

1706 (6) The institute and the Florida State University College  
1707 of Social Work shall design and implement a curriculum that  
1708 enhances knowledge and skills for the child welfare practice.  
1709 The institute and the college shall create the curriculum using  
1710 interactive and interdisciplinary approaches and include  
1711 opportunities for students to gain an understanding of real-  
1712 world child welfare cases. The institute shall disseminate the  
1713 curriculum to other interested state universities and colleges  
1714 and provide implementation support. The institute shall contract  
1715 with a person or entity of its choosing, by November 1, 2020, to  
1716 evaluate the curriculum and make recommendations for  
1717 improvement. The college shall implement the curriculum during  
1718 the 2021-2022 school year.

1719 (7) The institute, in collaboration with the department,  
1720 community-based care lead agencies, providers of case management  
1721 services, and other child welfare stakeholders, shall design and  
1722 implement a career-long professional development curriculum for  
1723 child welfare professionals at all levels and from all  
1724 disciplines. The professional development curriculum must  
1725 enhance the performance of the current child welfare workforce,

1726 address issues related to retention, complement the social work  
1727 curriculum, and be developed using social work principles. The  
1728 professional development curriculum shall provide career-long  
1729 coaching, training, certification, and mentorship. The institute  
1730 must provide the professional support on a continuous basis  
1731 through online and in-person services. The professional  
1732 development curriculum must be available by July 1, 2021.

1733 (8) The institute shall establish a consulting program for  
1734 child welfare organizations to enhance workforce culture,  
1735 supervision, and related management processes to improve  
1736 retention, effectiveness, and overall well-being of staff to  
1737 support improved child welfare outcomes. The institute shall  
1738 select child welfare organizations through a competitive  
1739 application process and provide ongoing analysis,  
1740 recommendations, and support from a team of experts on a long-  
1741 term basis to address systemic and operational workforce  
1742 challenges.

1743 Section 20. The Department of Revenue is authorized, and  
1744 all conditions are deemed met, to adopt emergency rules under s.  
1745 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, for the purpose of implementing  
1746 this act. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, emergency  
1747 rules adopted under this section are effective for 6 months  
1748 after adoption and may be renewed during the pendency of  
1749 procedures to adopt permanent rules addressing the subject of  
1750 the emergency rules.

1751           Section 21. For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the sum of  
1752 \$208,000 in nonrecurring funds is appropriated from the General  
1753 Revenue Fund to the Department of Revenue for the purpose of  
1754 implementing this act.

1755           Section 22. The Florida Institute for Child Welfare shall  
1756 analyze the use of funding provided by the tax credit authorized  
1757 under s. 402.62 and submit a report to the Governor, the  
1758 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
1759 Representatives by October 31, 2024. The report shall, at a  
1760 minimum, include the total funding amount and categorize the  
1761 funding by type of program, describe the programs that were  
1762 funded, and assess the outcomes that were achieved using the  
1763 funding.

1764           Section 23. The Department of Children and Families, in  
1765 collaboration with the Florida Institute of Child Welfare, shall  
1766 develop an expanded career ladder for child protective  
1767 investigations staff. The career ladder shall include multiple  
1768 levels of child protective investigator classifications,  
1769 corresponding milestones and professional development  
1770 opportunities necessary for advancement, and compensation  
1771 ranges. The department must submit a proposal for the expanded  
1772 career ladder to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and  
1773 the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than  
1774 November 1, 2020.

1775           Section 24. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.