

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

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|-----------------------|---------------|-------|
| ADOPTED | <u> </u> | (Y/N) |
| ADOPTED AS AMENDED | <u> </u> | (Y/N) |
| ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION | <u> </u> | (Y/N) |
| FAILED TO ADOPT | <u> </u> | (Y/N) |
| WITHDRAWN | <u> </u> | (Y/N) |
| OTHER | <u> </u> | |

Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee

Representative Williams offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Section 39.4092, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

39.4092 Task Force on the Monitoring of Children in Out-of-Home Care.-

(1) CREATION. -The Task Force on the Monitoring of Children in Out-of-Home Care, a task force as defined in s. 20.03(8), is established within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement shall provide administrative and staff support services relating to the functions of the task force.

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17 (2) PURPOSE. -The purpose of the task force is to identify
18 and counter root causes of why, and to ensure that prompt and
19 effective action is taken to address, children becoming missing
20 while in out-of-home care. The task force shall examine and
21 recommend improvements to current policies, procedures,
22 programs, and initiatives to prevent children from becoming
23 missing while in out-of-home care and to ensure that timely and
24 comprehensive steps are taken when children are missing for any
25 reason, including, but not limited to, running away, human
26 trafficking, and abduction by or absconding with a parent or an
27 individual who does not have care or custody of the child.

28 (3) MEMBERSHIP; MEETINGS.-

29 (a) The task force shall be composed of 13 members as
30 follows:

31 1. A member of the Senate, appointed by the President of
32 the Senate.

33 2. A member of the House of Representatives, appointed by
34 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

35 3. The Secretary, or designee.

36 4. The Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Justice, or
37 designee.

38 5. The Executive Director of the Guardian ad Litem Office,
39 or designee.

40 6. The Executive Director of the Florida Department of Law
41 Enforcement, or designee.

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42 7. A representative from Safe Kids Florida, appointed by
43 the Surgeon General.

44 8. A representative from the Statewide Council on Human
45 Trafficking, appointed by the Attorney General.

46 9. A representative from a community-based care lead
47 agency delivering child welfare services in a rural county,
48 appointed by the secretary.

49 10. A representative from a community-based care lead
50 agency delivering child welfare services in an urban county,
51 appointed by the secretary.

52 11. A licensed foster parent, appointed by the secretary.

53 12. A representative from a residential group care
54 provider, appointed by the secretary.

55 13. A young adult who aged out of the foster care system,
56 appointed by the secretary.

57 (b) Appointments to the task force must be made by August
58 1, 2021. Members shall be appointed to serve at the pleasure of
59 the official who appointed the member. A vacancy on the task
60 force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
61 appointment.

62 (c) The task force shall elect a chair from among its
63 members.

64 (d) The task force shall convene no later than September 1,
65 2021. The task force shall meet monthly or upon the call of the

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66 chair. The task force shall hold its meetings through
67 teleconference or other electronic means.

68 (4) DUTIES.—The duties of the task force include the
69 following:

70 (a) Analyzing statistical data regarding children in out-
71 of-home care who are missing, and the reasons why children are
72 missing, if known.

73 (b) Identifying the root causes of why children become
74 missing while in out-of-home care and how to prevent children
75 from becoming missing while in out-of-home care.

76 (c) Assessing the relationship between children becoming
77 missing from out-of-home care and the risks of such children
78 becoming victims of human trafficking.

79 (d) Assessing the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of
80 existing policies and procedures for preventing children in out-
81 of-home care from becoming missing, promptly determining whether
82 such children are missing, and locating them.

83 (e) Evaluating the state's approaches to reporting on the
84 individual status of children missing from out-of-home care and
85 the results of efforts to locate them, including, but not
86 limited to, the use of technology, training, communication, and
87 cooperation.

88 (f) Measuring the overall performance of the efforts to
89 locate and recover children missing from out-of-home, including,
90 but not limited to, the communication and response between

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91 community-based care lead agencies, the department, and other
92 entities.

93 (g) Collaborating with the Florida Institute for Child
94 Welfare to identify best practices used in other states for the
95 monitoring of the location of children in out-of-home care who
96 become missing, and evaluating whether they should be adopted in
97 this state.

98 (h) Submitting recommendations to improve policies,
99 procedures, and systems including, but not limited to,
100 technology, training, communication, and cooperation, so all
101 entities are effectively monitoring children in out-of-home
102 care, responding to such children who are missing, and
103 preventing children from becoming missing while in out-of-home
104 care.

105 (5) Until October 1, 2022, the department shall submit
106 monthly reports to the task force to assist the task force in
107 fulfilling its duties. The monthly reports must, at a minimum,
108 address the number and percentage of children in out-of-home
109 care who have been reported missing and the reasons why, if
110 known, and the length of time between when children are reported
111 missing and their recovery or return. This shall be reported by
112 age, county, community-based care lead-agency, and reason.

113 (6) The Florida Institute for Child Welfare shall conduct
114 focus groups with children in out-of-home care and young adults
115 who aged out of the foster care system to assist the task force

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116 in fulfilling its duties. The focus groups must, at a minimum,
117 consider reasons why children seek to leave their placements,
118 and identify opportunities and resources to assist and prevent
119 children from leaving placements, and, if they become missing,
120 facilitate their return. The Institute shall submit findings
121 from the focus groups to the task force by April 1, 2022.

122 (7) REPORTS.— The task force shall submit a report by
123 October 1, 2022, addressing the topics in subsections (4), (5),
124 and (6) to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
125 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

126 (8) This section is repealed June 30, 2023, unless saved
127 from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

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129
130 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

131 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:
132 An act relating to the Task Force on the Monitoring of
133 Children in Out-of-Home Care; creating s. 39.4092, F.S.;

134 creating the Task Force on the Monitoring of Children in
135 Out-of-Home Care for specified purposes; providing for
136 membership; authorizing the task force to conduct meetings
137 through teleconference; requiring the department to submit
138 monthly reports to the task force; requiring the Florida
139 Institute for Child Welfare to conduct focus groups and
140 submit findings; requiring the task force to submit a

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Bill No. HB 1425 (2021)

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141 | report to the Governor and Legislature; providing a repeal
142 | date unless saved from repeal by the Legislature; providing
143 | an effective date.