

Amendment No. 1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED (Y/N)
 ADOPTED AS AMENDED (Y/N)
 ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION (Y/N)
 FAILED TO ADOPT (Y/N)
 WITHDRAWN (Y/N)
 OTHER

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Health & Human Services
 2 Committee

3 Representative Busatta Cabrera offered the following:

4
 5 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

6 Remove lines 669-1228 and insert:

7 particularly in relation to independent living transition
 8 services. The foster parent, legal custodian, or guardian ad
 9 litem may also provide any information relevant to the child's

10 best interest to the court. ~~(a)~~ In addition to the review and
 11 report required under paragraphs (1)(a) and (2)(a),
 12 respectively, the court shall:

13 (a) Inquire about the life skills the child has acquired
 14 and whether those services are age appropriate, at the first
 15 judicial review hearing held subsequent to the child's 16th
 16 birthday. At the ~~Hold~~ a judicial review hearing, the department

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17 shall provide the court with a report that includes specific
18 information related to the life skills that the child has
19 acquired since the child's 13th birthday, or since the date the
20 child came into foster care, whichever came later within 90 days
21 after a child's 17th birthday. For any child who may meet the
22 requirements for appointment of a guardian advocate under s.
23 393.12, or a guardian under chapter 744, the updated case plan
24 must be developed in a face-to-face conference with the child,
25 if appropriate; the child's attorney; any court-appointed
26 guardian ad litem; the temporary custodian of the child; and the
27 parent of the child, if the parent's rights have not been
28 terminated. The court shall also issue an order, separate from
29 the order on judicial review, that the disability of nonage of
30 the child has been removed pursuant to ss. 743.044, 743.045,
31 743.046, and 743.047, and for any of these disabilities that the
32 court finds is in the child's best interest to remove. The court
33 shall continue to hold timely judicial review hearings. If
34 necessary, the court may review the status of the child more
35 frequently during the year before the child's 18th birthday. At
36 each review hearing held under this subsection, in addition to
37 any information or report provided to the court by the foster
38 parent, legal custodian, or guardian ad litem, the child shall
39 be given the opportunity to address the court with any
40 information relevant to the child's best interest, particularly
41 in relation to independent living transition services.

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42 (b) The court shall hold a judicial review hearing within
43 90 days after a child's 17th birthday. The court shall issue an
44 order, separate from the order on judicial review, that the
45 disability of nonage of the child has been removed under ss.
46 743.044, 743.045, 743.046, and 743.047, for any disability that
47 the court finds is in the child's best interest to remove. The
48 department shall include in the social study report for the
49 first judicial review that occurs after the child's 17th
50 birthday written verification that the child has:

51 1. A current Medicaid card and all necessary information
52 concerning the Medicaid program sufficient to prepare the child
53 to apply for coverage upon reaching the age of 18, if such
54 application is appropriate.

55 2. A certified copy of the child's birth certificate and,
56 if the child does not have a valid driver license, a Florida
57 identification card issued under s. 322.051.

58 3. A social security card and information relating to
59 social security insurance benefits if the child is eligible for
60 those benefits. If the child has received such benefits and they
61 are being held in trust for the child, a full accounting of
62 these funds must be provided and the child must be informed as
63 to how to access those funds.

64 4. All relevant information related to the Road-to-
65 Independence Program under s. 409.1451, including, but not
66 limited to, eligibility requirements, information on

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67 participation, and assistance in gaining admission to the
68 program. If the child is eligible for the Road-to-Independence
69 Program, he or she must be advised that he or she may continue
70 to reside with the licensed family home or group care provider
71 with whom the child was residing at the time the child attained
72 his or her 18th birthday, in another licensed family home, or
73 with a group care provider arranged by the department.

74 5. An open bank account or the identification necessary to
75 open a bank account and to acquire essential banking and
76 budgeting skills.

77 6. Information on public assistance and how to apply for
78 public assistance.

79 7. A clear understanding of where he or she will be living
80 on his or her 18th birthday, how living expenses will be paid,
81 and the educational program or school in which he or she will be
82 enrolled.

83 8. Information related to the ability of the child to
84 remain in care until he or she reaches 21 years of age under s.
85 39.013.

86 9. A letter providing the dates that the child is under
87 the jurisdiction of the court.

88 10. A letter stating that the child is in compliance with
89 financial aid documentation requirements.

90 11. The child's educational records.

91 12. The child's entire health and mental health records.

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92 13. The process for accessing the child's ~~his or her~~ case
93 file.

94 14. A statement encouraging the child to attend all
95 judicial review hearings ~~occurring after the child's 17th~~
96 ~~birthday.~~

97 15. Information on how to obtain a driver license or
98 learner's driver license.

99 ~~(c)(b)~~ At the first judicial review hearing held
100 subsequent to the child's 17th birthday, ~~the department shall~~
101 ~~provide the court with an updated case plan that includes~~
102 ~~specific information related to the independent living skills~~
103 ~~that the child has acquired since the child's 13th birthday, or~~
104 ~~since the date the child came into foster care, whichever came~~
105 ~~later.~~

106 ~~1. For any child who may meet the requirements for~~
107 ~~appointment of a guardian pursuant to chapter 744, or a guardian~~
108 ~~advocate pursuant to s. 393.12, the updated case plan must be~~
109 ~~developed in a face-to-face conference with the child, if~~
110 ~~appropriate; the child's attorney; any court-appointed guardian~~
111 ~~ad litem; the temporary custodian of the child; and the parent,~~
112 ~~if the parent's rights have not been terminated.~~

113 ~~2. At the judicial review hearing, if the court determines~~
114 ~~pursuant to chapter 744 that there is a good faith basis to~~
115 ~~believe that the child qualifies for appointment of a guardian~~
116 ~~advocate, limited guardian, or plenary guardian for the child~~

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117 and that no less restrictive decisionmaking assistance will meet
118 the child's needs:

119 ~~1.a.~~ The department shall complete a multidisciplinary
120 report which must include, but is not limited to, a psychosocial
121 evaluation and educational report if such a report has not been
122 completed within the previous 2 years.

123 ~~2.b.~~ The department shall identify one or more individuals
124 who are willing to serve as the guardian advocate under ~~pursuant~~
125 ~~to~~ s. 393.12 or as the plenary or limited guardian under
126 ~~pursuant to~~ chapter 744. Any other interested parties or
127 participants may make efforts to identify such a guardian
128 advocate, limited guardian, or plenary guardian. The child's
129 biological or adoptive family members, including the child's
130 parents if the parents' rights have not been terminated, may not
131 be considered for service as the plenary or limited guardian
132 unless the court enters a written order finding that such an
133 appointment is in the child's best interests.

134 ~~3.e.~~ Proceedings may be initiated within 180 days after
135 the child's 17th birthday for the appointment of a guardian
136 advocate, plenary guardian, or limited guardian for the child in
137 a separate proceeding in the court division with jurisdiction
138 over guardianship matters and pursuant to chapter 744. The
139 Legislature encourages the use of pro bono representation to
140 initiate proceedings under this section.

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141 ~~4.3.~~ In the event another interested party or participant
142 initiates proceedings for the appointment of a guardian
143 advocate, plenary guardian, or limited guardian for the child,
144 the department shall provide all necessary documentation and
145 information to the petitioner to complete a petition under s.
146 393.12 or chapter 744 within 45 days after the first judicial
147 review hearing after the child's 17th birthday.

148 ~~5.4.~~ Any proceedings seeking appointment of a guardian
149 advocate or a determination of incapacity and the appointment of
150 a guardian must be conducted in a separate proceeding in the
151 court division with jurisdiction over guardianship matters and
152 pursuant to chapter 744.

153 ~~(d)(e)~~ If the court finds at the judicial review hearing
154 after the child's 17th birthday that the department has not met
155 its obligations to the child as stated in this part, in the
156 written case plan, or in the provision of independent living
157 services, the court may issue an order directing the department
158 to show cause as to why it has not done so. If the department
159 cannot justify its noncompliance, the court may give the
160 department 30 days within which to comply. If the department
161 fails to comply within 30 days, the court may hold the
162 department in contempt.

163 ~~(e)(d)~~ If necessary, the court may review the status of
164 the child more frequently during the year before the child's
165 18th birthday. At the last review hearing before the child

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166 reaches 18 years of age, and in addition to the requirements of
167 subsection (2), the court shall:

168 1. Address whether the child plans to remain in foster
169 care, and, if so, ensure that the child's transition plan
170 includes a plan for meeting one or more of the criteria
171 specified in s. 39.6251.

172 2. Ensure that the transition plan includes a supervised
173 living arrangement under s. 39.6251.

174 3. Ensure the child has been informed of:

175 a. The right to continued support and services from the
176 department and the community-based care lead agency.

177 b. The right to request termination of dependency
178 jurisdiction and be discharged from foster care.

179 c. The opportunity to reenter foster care under ~~pursuant~~
180 ~~to~~ s. 39.6251.

181 4. Ensure that the child ~~young adult~~, if he or she
182 requests termination of dependency jurisdiction and discharge
183 from foster care, has been informed of:

184 a. Services or benefits for which the child ~~young adult~~
185 may be eligible based on his or her former placement in foster
186 care, including, but not limited to, the assistance of the
187 Office of Continuing Care under s. 414.56.~~†~~

188 b. Services or benefits that may be lost through
189 termination of dependency jurisdiction. ~~† and~~

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190 c. Other federal, state, local, or community-based
191 services or supports available to him or her.

192 Section 8. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section
193 39.806, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

194 39.806 Grounds for termination of parental rights.—

195 (1) Grounds for the termination of parental rights may be
196 established under any of the following circumstances:

197 (e) When a child has been adjudicated dependent, a case
198 plan has been filed with the court, and:

199 1. The child continues to be abused, neglected, or
200 abandoned by the parent or parents. The failure of the parent or
201 parents to substantially comply with the case plan for a period
202 of 12 months after an adjudication of the child as a dependent
203 child or the child's placement into shelter care, whichever
204 occurs first, constitutes evidence of continuing abuse, neglect,
205 or abandonment unless the failure to substantially comply with
206 the case plan was due to the parent's lack of financial
207 resources or to the failure of the department to make reasonable
208 efforts to reunify the parent and child. The 12-month period
209 begins to run only after the child's placement into shelter care
210 or the entry of a disposition order placing the custody of the
211 child with the department or a person other than the parent and
212 the court's approval of a case plan having the goal of
213 reunification with the parent, whichever occurs first; ~~or~~

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214 2. The parent or parents have materially breached the case
215 plan by their action or inaction. Time is of the essence for
216 permanency of children in the dependency system. In order to
217 prove the parent or parents have materially breached the case
218 plan, the court must find by clear and convincing evidence that
219 the parent or parents are unlikely or unable to substantially
220 comply with the case plan before time to comply with the case
221 plan expires; or.

222 3. The child has been in care for any 12 of the last 22
223 months and the parents have not substantially complied with the
224 case plan so as to permit reunification under s. 39.522(3) ~~s.~~
225 ~~39.522(2)~~ unless the failure to substantially comply with the
226 case plan was due to the parent's lack of financial resources or
227 to the failure of the department to make reasonable efforts to
228 reunify the parent and child.

229 Section 9. Section 39.8155, Florida Statutes, is created
230 to read:

231 39.8155 Reinstatement of parental rights.-

232 (1) After parental rights have been terminated in
233 accordance with this part, the department, the parent whose
234 rights were terminated, or the child may file a motion to
235 reinstate the parent's parental rights. The court may consider a
236 motion to reinstate parental rights if:

237 (a) The grounds for termination of parental rights were
238 based on s. 39.806(1)(a) or (e)1.-3.

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239 (b) The parent was not the verified perpetrator of sexual
240 or physical abuse of the child.

241 (c) The parent has not been a perpetrator involved in any
242 verified reports of abuse, neglect, or abandonment since his or
243 her parental rights for the child were terminated.

244 (d) The parent has not had his or her parental rights
245 terminated for any other child, under any grounds, in this state
246 or any other jurisdiction, since his or her parental rights for
247 the child were terminated.

248 (e) The child is at least 13 years of age.

249 (f) The child has not achieved permanency and is not in a
250 preadoptive placement, and at least 36 months have passed since
251 the termination of parental rights.

252 (2) The court shall dismiss a motion to reinstate parental
253 rights if the criteria are not met in subsection (1).

254 (3) If a motion to reinstate parental rights is filed, the
255 court shall consider all relevant evidence, including whether:

256 (a) The child possesses sufficient maturity to express a
257 preference regarding the reinstatement of parental rights.

258 (b) The child is not in a preadoptive home or under
259 permanent guardianship.

260 (c) The parent has a documented change in behavior such
261 that, given the current age and maturity of the child, the
262 circumstances that brought the child into care are remedied.

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263 (d) The parent demonstrates sufficient protective
264 capacities, given the child's age, physical and behavioral
265 health, and any other specific characteristics and needs, such
266 that the risk of the child reentering care is low.

267 (e) Both the parent and child wish to reinstate parental
268 rights.

269 (f) A multidisciplinary team was convened and recommends
270 the reinstatement of parental rights and has developed a plan to
271 transition the child to the former parent's care.

272 (4) Upon finding that the criteria in subsection (3) are
273 established by clear and convincing evidence, the court shall
274 order the department to conduct supervised visitation and trial
275 home visits between the child and former parent for at least 3
276 consecutive months after the completion of a home study. The
277 court shall consider the plan developed by the child's
278 multidisciplinary team. The department shall report to the court
279 at least once every 30 days regarding the former parent's
280 interactions with the child and recommend whether the court
281 should reinstate parental rights. The department shall
282 immediately cease the visitation with the former parent if there
283 is an allegation of abuse, neglect, or abandonment of the child
284 by the parent; if the department determines that the child's
285 safety or well-being is threatened; or that such visitation is
286 not in the child's best interest. The department shall

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287 immediately notify the court if it ceases visitation between the
288 child and former parent.

289 (5) The court may reinstate parental rights upon a finding
290 of clear and convincing evidence that it is in the best interest
291 of the child. Upon ordering reinstatement of parental rights,
292 the court shall place the child in the custody of the former
293 parent with an in-home safety plan. The court shall retain
294 jurisdiction for at least 6 months, during which the department
295 shall supervise the placement and report to the court on the
296 stability of the placement. The court may continue jurisdiction
297 for up to 12 months after it reinstates parental rights.

298 Section 10. Subsections (1), (2), (4), (6), and (8)
299 through (11) of section 409.1451, Florida Statutes, are re-
300 enacted, and subsections (3), (5), and (7) of that section are
301 amended to read:

302 409.1451 The Road-to-Independence Program.—

303 (3) AFTERCARE SERVICES.—

304 (a) 1. After care services are available to a young adult
305 who has reached 18 years of age but is not yet 23 years of age
306 and is:

307 a. ~~1.~~ Not in foster care.

308 b. ~~2.~~ Temporarily not receiving financial assistance under
309 subsection (2) to pursue postsecondary education.

310 2. Subject to available funding, aftercare services as
311 specified in subparagraph 8. of paragraph (b) shall also be

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312 available to a young adult who has reached 18 years of age but
313 is not yet 23 years of age, is receiving financial assistance
314 under subsection (2), is experiencing an emergency situation,
315 and whose resources are insufficient to meet it. Such assistance
316 shall be in addition to any amount specified in paragraph (b) of
317 subsection (2).

318 (b) Aftercare services include, but are not limited to,
319 the following:

- 320 1. Mentoring and tutoring.
- 321 2. Mental health services and substance abuse counseling.
- 322 3. Life skills classes, including credit management and
323 preventive health activities.
- 324 4. Parenting classes.
- 325 5. Job and career skills training.
- 326 6. Counselor consultations.
- 327 7. Temporary financial assistance for necessities,
328 including, but not limited to, education supplies,
329 transportation expenses, security deposits for rent and
330 utilities, furnishings, household goods, and other basic living
331 expenses.
- 332 8. Temporary financial assistance to address emergency
333 situations, including, but not limited to, automobile repairs or
334 large medical expenses.

335 9. ~~8.~~ Financial literacy skills training pursuant to s.
336 39.6035(1)(c).

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337
338 The specific services to be provided under this paragraph shall
339 be determined by an assessment of the young adult and may be
340 provided by the community-based care

341 (5) DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES PORTABILITY.—

342 (a) The services provided under this section are portable
343 across county lines and between community-based care lead
344 agencies.

345 ~~1.(a)~~ The service needs that are identified in the
346 original or updated transition plan under, ~~pursuant to~~ s.
347 39.6035 must, ~~shall~~ be provided by the lead agency where the
348 young adult is currently residing but shall be funded by the
349 lead agency that ~~who~~ initiated the transition plan.

350 ~~2.(b)~~ The lead agency with primary case management
351 responsibilities shall provide maintenance payments, case
352 planning, including a written description of all services that
353 will assist a child 16 years of age or older in preparing for
354 the transition from care to independence, as well as regular
355 case reviews that conform with all federal scheduling and
356 content requirements, for all children in foster care who are
357 placed or visiting out-of-state.

358 (b) Each community-based care lead agency shall at least
359 annually attempt to contact each young adult who has aged out of
360 foster care, who is potentially eligible for continuing care
361 under s. 39.6251 or for the services available under this

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362 section, and who is not participating in any of these services.
363 Through this contact, the lead agency shall communicate the
364 continued availability of these programs and the services of the
365 Office of Continuing Care established under s. 414.56. The lead
366 agency shall also inquire into the young adult's needs and refer
367 him or her to other programs that may be of assistance.

368 (c) Each community-based care lead agency must offer
369 services for intensive independent living development for young
370 adults who have aged out of foster care and have the greatest
371 deficits in life skills.

372 (7) INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The
373 secretary shall establish the Independent Living Services
374 Advisory Council for the purpose of reviewing and making
375 recommendations concerning the implementation and operation of
376 ~~the provisions of s. 39.6251 and the Road-to-Independence~~
377 ~~Program. The advisory council shall function as specified in~~
378 ~~this subsection until the Legislature determines that the~~
379 ~~advisory council can no longer provide a valuable contribution~~
380 ~~to the department's efforts to achieve the goals of the services~~
381 ~~designed to enable a young adult to live independently.~~

382 (a) The advisory council shall assess the implementation
383 and operation of the Road-to-Independence Program and advise the
384 department on actions that would improve the ability of the
385 ~~these~~ Road-to-Independence Program services to meet the
386 established goals. The advisory council shall keep the

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387 department informed of problems being experienced with the
388 services, barriers to the effective and efficient integration of
389 services and support across systems, and successes that the
390 system of services has achieved. The department shall consider,
391 but is not required to implement, the recommendations of the
392 advisory council.

393 (b)1. The advisory council shall report to the secretary
394 on the status of the implementation of the Road-to-Independence
395 Program, efforts to publicize the availability of the Road-to-
396 Independence Program, the success of the services under the
397 program, problems identified with the program, and
398 recommendations for department or legislative action,~~and the~~
399 ~~department's implementation of the recommendations contained in~~
400 ~~the Independent Living Services Integration Workgroup Report~~
401 ~~submitted to the appropriate substantive committees of the~~
402 ~~Legislature by December 31, 2013.~~

403 2. The department shall submit a report by December 31 of
404 each year to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
405 Speaker of the House of Representatives which includes ~~a summary~~
406 ~~of the factors reported on by the council and identifies the~~
407 recommendations of the advisory council and the department's
408 response ~~either describes the department's actions to implement~~
409 ~~the recommendations or provides the department's rationale for~~
410 ~~not implementing the recommendations.~~ The report must also
411 include the most recent data regarding the status of and

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412 outcomes for young adults who turned 18 years of age while in
413 foster care, relating to education, employment, housing,
414 financial, transportation, health and well-being, and
415 connections, and an analysis of such data and outcomes.

416 (c) Members of the advisory council shall be appointed by
417 the secretary of the department. The membership of the advisory
418 council must include, at a minimum, young adults who receive
419 services and funding through the Road-to-Independence Program,
420 representatives from the headquarters and regional offices of
421 the department ~~of Children and Families~~, community-based care
422 lead agencies, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the
423 Department of Economic Opportunity, the Department of Education,
424 the Agency for Health Care Administration, the State Youth
425 Advisory Board, CareerSource Florida, Inc., the Statewide
426 Guardian Ad Litem Office, foster parents, ~~recipients of services~~
427 ~~and funding through the Road-to-Independence Program,~~ and
428 advocates for children in care. The secretary shall determine
429 the length of the term to be served by each member appointed to
430 the advisory council, which may not exceed 4 years.

431 (d) The advisory council may consult with children
432 currently in care and young adults who aged out of care
433 regarding their needs, preferences, and concerns related to
434 preparation for, transition to, and support during independent
435 living.

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436 ~~(e)-(d)~~ The department shall provide administrative support
437 to the ~~Independent Living Services~~ advisory council to
438 accomplish its assigned tasks. The advisory council shall be
439 afforded access to all appropriate data from the department,
440 each community-based care lead agency, and other relevant
441 agencies in order to accomplish the tasks set forth in this
442 section. The data collected may not include any information that
443 would identify a specific child or young adult.

444 ~~(e)~~ ~~The advisory council report required under paragraph~~
445 ~~(b) must include an analysis of the system of independent living~~
446 ~~transition services for young adults who reach 18 years of age~~
447 ~~while in foster care before completing high school or its~~
448 ~~equivalent and recommendations for department or legislative~~
449 ~~action. The council shall assess and report on the most~~
450 ~~effective method of assisting these young adults to complete~~
451 ~~high school or its equivalent by examining the practices of~~
452 ~~other states.~~

453 Section 11. Section 409.14515, Florida Statutes, is
454 created to read:

455 409.14515 Independent living preparation.—The department
456 shall assist children who are in foster care in making the
457 transition to independent living and self-sufficiency as adults.
458 To support opportunities for participation in age-appropriate
459 life skills activities, the department shall:

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460 (1) Identify important life skills that children in out-
461 of-home care should acquire.

462 (2) Develop a list of age-appropriate activities and
463 responsibilities useful for the development of specific life
464 skills for use by children and their caregivers. The age-
465 appropriate activities must address specific topics tailored to
466 the needs of each child's developmental stage. For older youth,
467 the list of age-appropriate activities must include, but is not
468 limited to, informing the youth of available independent living
469 services and community resources and how to apply for such
470 services.

471 (3) Design and disseminate training for caregivers related
472 to building needed life skills. The training must include
473 components that address the challenges of children in foster
474 care in transitioning to adulthood and information on programs
475 for children who are aging out of care under ss. 414.56 and
476 409.1451, high school completion, applications for financial
477 assistance for higher education, vocational school
478 opportunities, supporting education, and employment
479 opportunities.

480 (4) Beginning after the child's 13th birthday, regularly
481 assess the degree of life skills acquisition by each child. The
482 department shall share the results of the assessments with the
483 caregiver and support the caregiver in creating, implementing,

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484 monitoring, and revising plans as necessary to address the
485 child's life skills deficits, if any.

486 (5) Provide opportunities for children in foster care to
487 interact with qualified, trained mentors who are committed to
488 engaging reliably with the child long-term.

489 (6) Develop and implement procedures for children of
490 sufficient age and understanding to directly access and manage
491 the personal allowance they receive from the department.

492 Section 12. Subsection (4) of section 409.1454, Florida
493 Statutes, is amended to read:

494 409.1454 Motor vehicle insurance and driver licenses for
495 children in care.—

496 (4) Payment shall be made to eligible recipients in the
497 order of eligibility until available funds are exhausted. If a
498 child determined to be eligible reaches permanency status or
499 turns 18 years of age, the program may pay for that child to
500 complete a driver education program and obtain a driver license
501 for up to 6 months after the date the child reaches permanency
502 status or 6 months after the date the child turns 18 years of
503 age. A child continuing in care under s. 39.6251, or who was in
504 licensed care when the child reached 18 years of age and is
505 currently receiving postsecondary education services and support
506 under s. 409.1451(2), may be eligible to have the costs of
507 licensure and costs incidental to licensure paid if the child

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508 demonstrates that such costs are creating barriers for obtaining
509 employment or completing educational goals.

510 Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
511 409.988, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

512 409.988 Community-based care lead agency duties; general
513 provisions.—

514 (1) DUTIES.—A lead agency:

515 (a) 1. Shall serve:

516 a. All children referred as a result of a report of abuse,
517 neglect, or abandonment to the department's central abuse
518 hotline, including, but not limited to, children who are the
519 subject of verified reports and children who are not the subject
520 of verified reports but who are at moderate to extremely high
521 risk of abuse, neglect, or abandonment, as determined using the
522 department's risk assessment instrument, regardless of the level
523 of funding allocated to the lead agency by the state if all
524 related funding is transferred.

525 b. Children who were adopted from the child welfare system
526 and whose families require post-adoption supports.

527 2. ~~The lead agency~~ May also serve children who have not
528 been the subject of reports of abuse, neglect, or abandonment,
529 but who are at risk of abuse, neglect, or abandonment, to
530 prevent their entry into the child protection and child welfare
531 system.

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532 Section 14. Section 414.56, Florida Statutes, is created
533 to read:

534 414.56 Office of Continuing Care.—The department shall
535 establish an Office of Continuing Care to ensure young adults
536 who age out of the foster care system between 18 and 21 years of
537 age, or 22 years of age with a documented disability, have a
538 point of contact until the young adult reaches the age of 26 in
539 order to receive ongoing support and care coordination needed to
540 achieve self-sufficiency. Duties of the office include, but are
541 not limited to:

542 (1) Informing young adults who age out of the foster care
543 system of the purpose of the office, the types of support the
544 office provides, and how to contact the office.

545 (2) Serving as a direct contact to the young adult in
546 order to provide information on how to access services to
547 support the young adult's self-sufficiency, including, but not
548 limited to, food assistance, behavioral health services,
549 housing, Medicaid, and educational services.

550 (3) Assisting in accessing services and supports for the
551 young adult to attain self-sufficiency, including, but not
552 limited to, completing documentation required to apply for
553 services.

554 (4) Collaborating with community-based care lead agencies
555 to identify local resources that can provide support to young

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556 adults served by the office and to assist in accessing these
557 supports.

558 Section 15. The Florida Institute for Child Welfare
559 established under s. 1004.615 shall:

560 (1) (a) Evaluate the effectiveness of the state's efforts
561 to assist youth in foster care in developing life skills to
562 become self-sufficient adults. The Florida Institute for Child
563 Welfare shall consult with the Institute for Food and
564 Agricultural Services Extension Program at the University of
565 Florida in conducting its evaluation.

566 (b) The evaluation shall, at a minimum:

567 1. Describe current requirements for caregivers to assist
568 youth in acquiring life skills, the information and available
569 supports provided to caregivers for doing so, and the actual
570 level of engagement in these efforts by caregivers.

571 2. Specify methods and measures used to determine if youth
572 have acquired or developed adequate life skills and how that
573 information is used to support life skills development for
574 individual youth.

575 3. Describe outcomes on a statewide basis, as well as by
576 individual community-based care lead agency, and describe how
577 this information is currently being used to improve performance.

578 4. Identify best practices for helping youth in foster
579 care develop life skills and compare the state's current
580 approach to the best practices.

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581 5. Specify any barriers that may prevent youth from
582 becoming self-sufficient.

583 6. Evaluate whether the state's current approach to
584 helping youth in foster care develop life skills is adequate,
585 and recommend any changes to enhance the effectiveness of the
586 state's approach for preparing youth for self-sufficiency. Any
587 recommendations must prioritize maintaining the state's current
588 approach of primarily relying on caregivers to assist youth in
589 developing life skills, and recommend that such efforts be part
590 of everyday life experiences to the extent possible. However,
591 such recommendations may also include additional options for
592 achieving the goal of effectively preparing youth for self-
593 sufficiency.

594 7. Include the input of youth who are currently in foster
595 care and young adults who were previously in foster care. The
596 Florida Institute for Child Welfare shall attempt to interview
597 youth who are currently in foster care and youth who were
598 previously in foster care on their experiences with the state's
599 approach to preparing them for adulthood, whether the life
600 skills provided were age appropriate or helpful, and what
601 recommendations they have to improve the state's approach in
602 preparing young adults in foster care for adulthood.

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605 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

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606 Remove lines 52-89 and insert:
607 provide a report with certain information; authorizing the court
608 to review the child's status on a more frequent basis; amending
609 39.806, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; creating s. 39.8155,
610 F.S.; providing that parental rights may be reinstated under
611 certain conditions; requiring a dismissal of the motion to
612 reinstate parental rights if certain criteria are not met;
613 providing evidence that may be considered when determining a
614 motion to reinstate parental rights; requiring supervised
615 visitation and trial home visits after a completed home study
616 and for a specified time; requiring the department to report to
617 the court once a month; requiring visitation to cease under
618 certain circumstances; requiring clear and convincing evidence
619 that reinstatement of parental rights is in the child's best
620 interest; requiring an in-home safety plan if parental rights
621 are reinstated; providing that the court retain jurisdiction for
622 a specified time; amending s. 409.1451, F.S.; providing that
623 Aftercare services may be used in emergency situations;
624 providing responsibilities of the department for the Road-to-
625 Independence Program; providing requirements for community-based
626 care lead agencies; removing Legislative determination relating
627 to the Independent Living Services Advisory Council's ability to
628 provide valuable contributions to the department; requiring
629 certain information be reported to the Governor and the
630 Legislature; revising membership of the council; allowing

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COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS/HB 1473 (2021)

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631 council to consult with certain youth; creating s. 409.14515,
632 F.S.; providing requirements for the department to help children
633 achieve self-sufficiency; amending s. 409.1454, F.S.; providing
634 that children receiving certain services and support may be
635 eligible to have certain fees paid for them; amendment s.
636 409.988, F.S.; requiring a community-based care lead agency to
637 serve certain children; creating s. 414.56, F.S.; creating the
638 Office of Continuing Care; providing duties of the office;
639 providing requirements for the Florida Institute for Child
640 Welfare; providing evaluation and analysis requirements;
641 requiring the evaluation and