

By Senator Burgess

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to contracts entered into by the
3 Department of Children and Families; amending s.
4 409.996, F.S.; revising requirements for contracts
5 between the department and lead agencies; providing an
6 effective date.

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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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10 Section 1. Present paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of
11 section 409.996, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph
12 (h), and new paragraphs (f) and (g) are added to that
13 subsection, to read:

14 409.996 Duties of the Department of Children and Families.—
15 The department shall contract for the delivery, administration,
16 or management of care for children in the child protection and
17 child welfare system. In doing so, the department retains
18 responsibility for the quality of contracted services and
19 programs and shall ensure that, at a minimum, services are
20 delivered in accordance with applicable federal and state
21 statutes and regulations and the performance standards and
22 metrics specified in the strategic plan created under s.
23 20.19(1).

24 (1) The department shall enter into contracts with lead
25 agencies for the performance of the duties by the lead agencies
26 established in s. 409.988. At a minimum, the contracts must do
27 all of the following:

28 (f) Require lead agencies to annually provide written and
29 published plans that detail timelines and procedures to maximize

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30 the use of concurrent case planning, minimize the time to
31 complete preliminary and final adoptive home studies, streamline
32 data entry into the statewide child welfare information system,
33 and reduce time to permanency.

34 (g) Require lead agencies to complete preliminary and final
35 adoptive home studies no later than 90 days after the filing of
36 the petition for termination of parental rights.

37 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.