

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  
 15           Families.—The department shall contract for the delivery,  
 16           administration, or management of care for children in the child  
 17           protection and child welfare system. In doing so, the department  
 18           retains responsibility for the quality of contracted services  
 19           and 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

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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  
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  
35 | final adoptive home studies no later than 90 days after the  
36 | filing of the petition for termination of parental rights.

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