

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. Paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section
 11 409.996, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (h), and
 12 new paragraphs (f) and (g) are added to that subsection, to
 13 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

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

34 | (g) Require lead agencies to gather all necessary child-
35 | specific information to complete adoptive home studies,
36 | excluding information related to any prospective caregiver, and
37 | enter such information into the child welfare information system
38 | of record no later than 90 days after the filing of the petition
39 | for termination of parental rights.

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