

By Senator Garcia

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to young adult housing support;  
3       amending s. 409.1452, F.S.; requiring each Florida  
4       College System institution and state university to  
5       develop plans for prioritizing the placement of  
6       certain students; requiring a Florida College System  
7       institution or state university to provide certain  
8       students with first priority for housing and work  
9       study opportunities in certain circumstances;  
10      prohibiting Florida College System institutions and  
11      state universities from requiring that certain  
12      students have a cosigner or guarantor; creating s.  
13      409.14525, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children  
14      and Families, community-based care lead agencies, and  
15      housing authorities to take any action required by the  
16      United States Department of Housing and Urban  
17      Development to administer the federal Foster Youth to  
18      Independence initiative; requiring the department,  
19      community-based care lead agencies, and certain  
20      subcontractors to take reasonable actions to  
21      facilitate current and former foster youths in the  
22      acquisition of residential leases; requiring the  
23      Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government  
24      Accountability (OPPAGA) to conduct a study of the  
25      barriers to housing faced by young adults who are  
26      homeless or were formerly in foster care; requiring  
27      OPPAGA to consult with certain entities in conducting  
28      the study; requiring OPPAGA to provide a report to the  
29      Governor and the Legislature by a certain date;

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30 providing an effective date.

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32 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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34 Section 1. Subsections (4), (5), and (6) are added to  
35 section 409.1452, Florida Statutes, to read:

36 409.1452 Collaboration with State University System,  
37 Florida College System, and Department of Education to assist  
38 children and young adults who have been or are in foster care or  
39 are experiencing homelessness; documentation regarding  
40 eligibility for tuition and fee exemptions; housing assistance.-

41 The department shall collaborate with the State University  
42 System, the Florida College System, and the Department of  
43 Education to address the need for a comprehensive support  
44 structure in the academic arena to assist children and young  
45 adults who have been or remain in the foster care system in  
46 making the transition from a structured care system into an  
47 independent living setting.

48 (4) Each Florida College System institution and state  
49 university shall, in consultation with the State Office on  
50 Homelessness within the Department of Children and Families,  
51 develop plans for prioritizing the placement of students who are  
52 or were formerly in foster care and those experiencing  
53 homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness, including,  
54 but not limited to, students eligible for the tuition and fee  
55 exemption under s. 1009.25(1)(e), in residence halls and  
56 dormitory residences owned by the institution or university.

57 (5) If a Florida College System institution or state  
58 university implements a priority system for the assignment of

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59 students to or the award of any of the following, the  
60 institution or university must provide students eligible for the  
61 tuition and fee exemption under s. 1009.25(1)(e) with first  
62 priority:

63 (a) Institution-operated or university-operated housing.

64 (b) Year-round housing.

65 (c) Work study opportunities.

66 (6) Florida College System institutions and state  
67 universities may not require students to have a cosigner or  
68 guarantor to obtain housing if the student receives housing  
69 support under s. 409.1451(2) or (3) or is in care under s.  
70 39.6251.

71 Section 2. Section 409.14525, Florida Statutes, is created  
72 to read:

73 409.14525 Housing support for young adults.-

74 (1) FEDERAL HOUSING VOUCHERS.-The department, community-  
75 based care lead agencies, and housing authorities created under  
76 s. 421.04 shall take any action required by the United States  
77 Department of Housing and Urban Development to administer the  
78 federal Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative, which may  
79 include the department, the community-based care lead agencies,  
80 and their subcontractors doing any of the following:

81 (a) Entering into a memorandum of understanding or a letter  
82 of intent with all of the housing authorities within their  
83 service areas.

84 (b) Providing or securing supportive services for  
85 participating youth for the duration of the FYI initiative  
86 voucher.

87 (c) Providing a written certification to the housing

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88 authority verifying the youth's child welfare history.

89 (d) Identifying youth eligible for an FYI initiative  
90 voucher within the community-based care lead agency's caseload  
91 and communicating their eligibility to the youth.

92 (2) ASSURING PAYMENT FOR RESIDENTIAL LEASES.—The  
93 department, community-based care lead agency, and any  
94 subcontractor responsible for administering housing funds for  
95 current or former foster youth shall take reasonable actions to  
96 facilitate the current or former foster youth's acquisition of a  
97 residential lease. Reasonable actions include providing  
98 assurance to landlords that the department, community-based care  
99 lead agency, or subcontractor will provide funds on a monthly  
100 basis. The assurance may be provided by cosigning the lease,  
101 providing a guarantee, or in another form acceptable to the  
102 landlord. This subsection applies to entities serving young  
103 adults under s. 409.1451(2) and (3) and those who are in care  
104 under s. 39.6251.

105 Section 3. (1) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and  
106 Government Accountability (OPPAGA) shall conduct a study of the  
107 barriers that young adults who are homeless or were formerly in  
108 foster care face when trying to obtain housing. The study must  
109 include recommendations for overcoming those barriers.

110 (2) In conducting the study, OPPAGA shall consult with the  
111 Department of Children and Families, the Board of Governors of  
112 the State University System, the Florida College System, the  
113 Department of Commerce, public housing authorities, affected  
114 young adults, and other stakeholders.

115 (3) OPPAGA must issue its findings by December 1, 2026, in  
116 a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the

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117 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

118 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.