

By the Committee on Education Postsecondary; and Senator Garcia

589-03091-25

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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 Office of  
19      Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability  
20      (OPPAGA) to conduct a study of the barriers to housing  
21      faced by young adults who are homeless or were  
22      formerly in foster care; requiring OPPAGA to consult  
23      with certain entities in conducting the study;  
24      requiring OPPAGA to provide a report to the Governor  
25      and the Legislature by a certain date; providing an  
26      effective date.

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28   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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30 Section 1. Subsections (4), (5), and (6) are added to  
31 section 409.1452, Florida Statutes, to read:

32 409.1452 Collaboration with State University System,  
33 Florida College System, and Department of Education to assist  
34 children and young adults who have been or are in foster care or  
35 are experiencing homelessness; documentation regarding  
36 eligibility for tuition and fee exemptions; housing assistance.—  
37 The department shall collaborate with the State University  
38 System, the Florida College System, and the Department of  
39 Education to address the need for a comprehensive support  
40 structure in the academic arena to assist children and young  
41 adults who have been or remain in the foster care system in  
42 making the transition from a structured care system into an  
43 independent living setting.

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

53 (5) If a Florida College System institution or state  
54 university implements a priority system for the assignment of  
55 students to or the award of any of the following, the  
56 institution or university must provide students eligible for the  
57 tuition and fee exemption under s. 1009.25(1)(e) with first  
58 priority:

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

60 (b) Year-round housing.

61 (c) Work study opportunities.

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

67 Section 2. Section 409.14525, Florida Statutes, is created  
68 to read:

69 409.14525 Housing support for young adults; federal housing  
70 vouchers.—The department, community-based care lead agencies,  
71 and housing authorities created under s. 421.04 shall take any  
72 action required by the United States Department of Housing and  
73 Urban Development to administer the federal Foster Youth to  
74 Independence (FYI) initiative, which may include the department,  
75 the community-based care lead agencies, and their subcontractors  
76 doing any of the following:

77 (1) Entering into a memorandum of understanding or a letter  
78 of intent with all of the housing authorities within their  
79 service areas.

80 (2) Providing or securing supportive services for  
81 participating youth for the duration of the FYI initiative  
82 voucher.

83 (3) Providing a written certification to the housing  
84 authority verifying the youth's child welfare history.

85 (4) Identifying youth eligible for an FYI initiative  
86 voucher within the community-based care lead agency's caseload  
87 and communicating their eligibility to the youth.

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

93           (2) In conducting the study, OPPAGA shall consult with the  
94 Department of Children and Families, the Board of Governors of  
95 the State University System, the Florida College System, the  
96 Department of Commerce, public housing authorities, affected  
97 young adults, and other stakeholders.

98           (3) OPPAGA must issue its findings by December 1, 2026, in  
99 a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the  
100 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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