

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

[2025s07012.hms.cf.docx]

BILL: CS/SB 7012

INTRODUCER: Fiscal Policy Committee; Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs;
and Senator Grall

SUBJECT: Child Welfare

DATE: April 30, 2025

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment – 646549 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment – 646549:

- The strike all amendment deletes all sections from CS/SB 7012. The deleted sections relate to the following:
 - Requirement of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to maintain specified data on the safe harbor placements for victims of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).
 - Requirement of the DCF to develop and implement a child protective investigator (CPI) and case manager recruitment program, and the associated requirements of the program.
 - Requirement of the DCF to develop and implement a 4-year pilot program of treatment foster care, and the associated eligibility requirements and program requirements.
 - Requirement of the DCF to convene a case management workforce workgroup of individuals with subject-matter expertise in case management and child welfare policy.
 - Requirement of the DCF to contract for a study of bed capacity and a gap analysis for CSEC victims.
 - Appropriations for the Treatment Foster Care Pilot Program and the CPI and Case Manager Recruitment Program.
- The amendment includes three sections from CS/CS/CS/SB 1626 (2025) that passed the Senate on 4/9/25. These sections:
 - Allow the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to waive operational requirements for domestic violence centers to receive certification in emergency situations;
 - Allow the DCF to grant limited exemptions for background screenings, instead of a general exemption; and

- Limits the liability of lead agency subcontractors to only the acts or omissions of the subcontractor and not the lead agencies or the DCF for contracts entered into or renewed after July 1, 2025.
- The amendment includes language from HB 6045 (2025) that removes the requirement that Community-based Care Lead agencies must post a fidelity bond to cover any costs and penalties associated with a board member's failure to disclose a conflict of interest. This language was added to statute last year in HB 7089 (2024).
- The amendment also:
 - Adds an exemption from state gift laws for incentives provided to state employees participating in the Florida Institute for Child Welfare's research or evaluation projects for child welfare.
 - Removes the appropriation language from the bill of \$3 million in recurring funds to the DCF to develop and implement the Treatment Foster Care Pilot Program and \$100,000 in recurring funds and \$200,000 in nonrecurring funds to the DCF to develop and implement the Child Protective Investigator and Case Manager Recruitment Program.