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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to child welfare; amending s. 39.524, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and Families to maintain copies of certain assessments and tools used to assess children for certain placement; requiring the department to maintain certain data in a specified format; amending s. 39.905, F.S.; authorizing the department to waive a specified requirement if there is an emergency need for a new domestic violence center; authorizing the department to issue a provisional certificate under certain circumstances; authorizing the department to adopt rules; amending ss. 402.305 and 409.175, F.S.; removing authority for the department to grant exemptions from working with children or the developmentally disabled; authorizing the department to grant limited exemptions to certain minimum standards and requirements, respectively; amending s. 402.402, F.S.; subject to an appropriation, requiring the department to develop a child protective investigator and case manager recruitment program for a specified purpose; specifying requirements for the program; specifying duties of the department under the program, to be completed in collaboration with community-based care lead agencies; authorizing the department to adopt rules to implement the program; amending s. 409.987, F.S.; removing the requirement that an entity post a specified fidelity bond in order to serve as a lead agency; amending s. 409.993, F.S.;

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30 providing immunity from liability for subcontractors  
31 of lead agencies for certain acts or omissions;  
32 providing applicability; amending s. 409.996, F.S.;  
33 subject to an appropriation and beginning on a  
34 specified date, requiring the department to develop a  
35 4-year pilot program for treatment foster care;  
36 requiring the department to implement the pilot  
37 program by a specified date; requiring the department  
38 to coordinate with community-based care lead agencies  
39 to develop a specified process; requiring community-  
40 based care lead agencies to recruit individuals and  
41 families for a certain purpose; limiting participation  
42 in the pilot program to children meeting specified  
43 criteria; requiring the department to identify two  
44 judicial circuits determined to have the greatest need  
45 for implementation of such pilot program; requiring  
46 the department to arrange for an independent  
47 evaluation of the pilot program to make specified  
48 determinations; requiring the department to establish  
49 certain minimum standards for the pilot program;  
50 requiring the department, by a specified date, to  
51 submit to the Governor and the Legislature a final  
52 report which includes specified evaluations, findings,  
53 and recommendations; amending s. 1004.615, F.S.;  
54 specifying that incentives provided to state employees  
55 for participating in research or evaluation with the  
56 Florida Institute for Child Welfare do not violate  
57 certain laws or require certain reporting; amending  
58 ss. 402.30501, 1002.57, and 1002.59, F.S.; conforming

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cross-references; requiring the department to convene a case management workforce workgroup by a specified date; providing for membership of the workgroup; specifying duties of the workgroup, to be completed in collaboration with the Florida Institute for Child Welfare; providing for meetings of the workgroup; providing for the operation of the workgroup until a specified date; requiring the workgroup to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date; providing requirements for the report; requiring the department to contract for a detailed study of certain services for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation; requiring that the study be completed by a specified date; providing requirements for the study; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 39.524, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.524 Safe-harbor placement.—

(3)(a) By October 1 of each year, the department, with information from community-based care agencies, shall report to the Legislature on the prevalence of ~~child~~ commercial sexual exploitation of children; the specialized services provided and placement of such children; the local service capacity assessed pursuant to s. 409.1754; the placement of children in safe houses and safe foster homes during the year, including the criteria used to determine the placement of children; the number

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88 of children who were evaluated for placement; the number of  
89 children who were placed based upon the evaluation; the number  
90 of children who were not placed; and the department's response  
91 to the findings and recommendations made by the Office of  
92 Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability in its  
93 annual study on commercial sexual exploitation of children, as  
94 required by s. 409.16791; and must also maintain a copy of any  
95 paper-based assessments or tools used to assess a child for such  
96 placement, to be provided upon request of the Legislature.

97 (b) The department shall maintain individual-level data of  
98 all children assessed for placement in a safe house or safe  
99 foster home and use this data to produce information that  
100 specifies ~~specifying~~ the number of children who were verified as  
101 victims of commercial sexual exploitation, who were referred to  
102 nonresidential services in the community, who were placed in a  
103 safe house or safe foster home, and who were referred to a safe  
104 house or safe foster home for whom placement was unavailable,  
105 and shall identify the counties in which such placement was  
106 unavailable. The department shall include this data in its  
107 report under this subsection so that the Legislature may  
108 consider this information in developing the General  
109 Appropriations Act. The department shall maintain collected  
110 individual-level data in a format that allows for extraction and  
111 analysis of anonymized individual-level and aggregate data upon  
112 request by the Legislature.

113 Section 2. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section  
114 39.905, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

115 39.905 Domestic violence centers.—

116 (1) Domestic violence centers certified under this part

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117 must:

118 (h) Demonstrate local need and ability to sustain  
119 operations through a history of 18 consecutive months' operation  
120 as a domestic violence center, including 12 months' operation of  
121 an emergency shelter as provided in paragraph (c), and a  
122 business plan which addresses future operations and funding of  
123 future operations. The department may waive this requirement if  
124 there is an emergency need for a new domestic violence center to  
125 provide services in an area and no other viable options exist to  
126 ensure continuity of services. If there is an emergency need,  
127 the department may issue a provisional certificate to the  
128 domestic violence center as long as the center meets all other  
129 criteria in this subsection. The department may adopt rules to  
130 provide minimum standards for a provisional certificate,  
131 including increased monitoring and site visits and the time  
132 period such certificate is valid.

133 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 402.305, Florida  
134 Statutes, is amended to read:

135 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

136 (2) PERSONNEL.—Minimum standards for child care personnel  
137 shall include minimum requirements as to:

138 (a) Good moral character based upon screening as defined in  
139 s. 402.302(15). This screening shall be conducted as provided in  
140 chapter 435, using the level 2 standards for screening set forth  
141 in that chapter, and include employment history checks, a search  
142 of criminal history records, sexual predator and sexual offender  
143 registries, and child abuse and neglect registry of any state in  
144 which the current or prospective child care personnel resided  
145 during the preceding 5 years.

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146 (b) Fingerprint submission for child care personnel, which  
147 shall comply with s. 435.12.

148 ~~(c) The department may grant exemptions from~~  
149 ~~disqualification from working with children or the~~  
150 ~~developmentally disabled as provided in s. 435.07.~~

151 (c) ~~(d)~~ Minimum age requirements. Such minimum standards  
152 shall prohibit a person under the age of 21 from being the  
153 operator of a child care facility and a person under the age of  
154 16 from being employed at such facility unless such person is  
155 under direct supervision and is not counted for the purposes of  
156 computing the personnel-to-child ratio.

157 (d) ~~(e)~~ Minimum training requirements for child care  
158 personnel.

159 1. Such minimum standards for training shall ensure that  
160 all child care personnel take an approved 40-clock-hour  
161 introductory course in child care, which course covers at least  
162 the following topic areas:

163 a. State and local rules and regulations which govern child  
164 care.

165 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

166 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

167 d. Child development, including typical and atypical  
168 language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills  
169 development.

170 e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using  
171 a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to  
172 determine the child's developmental age level.

173 f. Specialized areas, including computer technology for  
174 professional and classroom use and early literacy and language

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development of children from birth to 5 years of age, as determined by the department, for owner-operators and child care personnel of a child care facility.

g. Developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder and Down syndrome, and early identification, use of available state and local resources, classroom integration, and positive behavioral supports for children with developmental disabilities.

Within 90 days after employment, child care personnel shall begin training to meet the training requirements. Child care personnel shall successfully complete such training within 1 year after the date on which the training began, as evidenced by passage of a competency examination. Successful completion of the 40-clock-hour introductory course shall articulate into community college credit in early childhood education, pursuant to ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25. Exemption from all or a portion of the required training shall be granted to child care personnel based upon educational credentials or passage of competency examinations. Child care personnel possessing a 2-year degree or higher that includes 6 college credit hours in early childhood development or child growth and development, or a child development associate credential or an equivalent state-approved child development associate credential, or a child development associate waiver certificate shall be automatically exempted from the training requirements in sub-subparagraphs b., d., and e.

2. The introductory course in child care shall stress, to the extent possible, an interdisciplinary approach to the study

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204 of children.

205 3. The introductory course shall cover recognition and  
206 prevention of shaken baby syndrome; prevention of sudden infant  
207 death syndrome; recognition and care of infants and toddlers  
208 with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum  
209 disorder and Down syndrome; and early childhood brain  
210 development within the topic areas identified in this paragraph.

211 4. On an annual basis in order to further their child care  
212 skills and, if appropriate, administrative skills, child care  
213 personnel who have fulfilled the requirements for the child care  
214 training shall be required to take an additional 1 continuing  
215 education unit of approved inservice training, or 10 clock hours  
216 of equivalent training, as determined by the department.

217 5. Child care personnel shall be required to complete 0.5  
218 continuing education unit of approved training or 5 clock hours  
219 of equivalent training, as determined by the department, in  
220 early literacy and language development of children from birth  
221 to 5 years of age one time. The year that this training is  
222 completed, it shall fulfill the 0.5 continuing education unit or  
223 5 clock hours of the annual training required in subparagraph 4.

224 6. Procedures for ensuring the training of qualified child  
225 care professionals to provide training of child care personnel,  
226 including onsite training, shall be included in the minimum  
227 standards. It is recommended that the state community child care  
228 coordination agencies (central agencies) be contracted by the  
229 department to coordinate such training when possible. Other  
230 district educational resources, such as community colleges and  
231 career programs, can be designated in such areas where central  
232 agencies may not exist or are determined not to have the



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233 capability to meet the coordination requirements set forth by  
234 the department.

235 7. Training requirements shall not apply to certain  
236 occasional or part-time support staff, including, but not  
237 limited to, swimming instructors, piano teachers, dance  
238 instructors, and gymnastics instructors.

239 8. The child care operator shall be required to take basic  
240 training in serving children with disabilities within 5 years  
241 after employment, either as a part of the introductory training  
242 or the annual 8 hours of inservice training.

243 (e)~~(f)~~ Periodic health examinations.

244 (f)~~(g)~~ A credential for child care facility directors. The  
245 credential shall be a required minimum standard for licensing.

246  
247 The department may grant limited exemptions to the minimum  
248 standards provided in this subsection which authorize a person  
249 to work in a specified role or with a specified population.

250 Section 4. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 402.402,  
251 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5) and (6),  
252 respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section,  
253 to read:

254 402.402 Child protection and child welfare personnel;  
255 attorneys employed by the department.—

256 (4) RECRUITMENT PROGRAM.—Subject to appropriation, the  
257 department shall develop and implement a child protective  
258 investigator and case manager recruitment program for the  
259 purpose of recruiting individuals who have previously held  
260 public safety and service positions, such as former law  
261 enforcement officers, first responders, military servicemembers,

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262 teachers, health care practitioners, and emergency management  
263 professionals. This recruitment program must focus on the  
264 education and recruitment of individuals who have held positions  
265 of public trust and who wish to further serve their communities  
266 as child welfare personnel.

267 (a) The department, in collaboration with community-based  
268 care lead agencies, shall:

269 1. Develop information pertaining to employment  
270 opportunities, application procedures, and training requirements  
271 for employment within the child welfare system and distribute  
272 such information to individuals who have previously held public  
273 safety and service positions.

274 2. Develop and implement an employment referral system with  
275 lead agencies for the case management population.

276 3. Collect the following information quarterly:

277 a. The total number of individuals who sought information  
278 from the program; were hired by the department as child  
279 protective investigators; were referred by the program to a lead  
280 agency for case management positions; and, based upon a referral  
281 by the program, were hired by the lead agency or contractor as a  
282 case manager.

283 b. The overall turnover rate for child protective  
284 investigators and case managers compared to the turnover rate  
285 for child protective investigators and case managers hired based  
286 upon this program.

287 (b) The department may adopt rules to implement this  
288 subsection.

289 Section 5. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) and paragraph  
290 (e) of subsection (14) of section 409.175, Florida Statutes, are

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amended to read:

409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies; public records exemption.—

(5) The department shall adopt and amend rules for the levels of licensed care associated with the licensure of family foster homes, residential child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies. The rules may include criteria to approve waivers to licensing requirements when applying for a child-specific license.

(b) The requirements for licensure and operation of family foster homes, residential child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies shall include:

1. The operation, conduct, and maintenance of these homes and agencies and the responsibility which they assume for children served and the evidence of need for that service.

2. The provision of food, clothing, educational opportunities, services, equipment, and individual supplies to assure the healthy physical, emotional, and mental development of the children served.

3. The appropriateness, safety, cleanliness, and general adequacy of the premises, including fire prevention and health standards, to provide for the physical comfort, care, and well-being of the children served.

4. The ratio of staff to children required to provide adequate care and supervision of the children served and, in the case of family foster homes, the maximum number of children in the home.

5. The good moral character based upon screening,

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education, training, and experience requirements for personnel and family foster homes.

~~6. The department may grant exemptions from disqualification from working with children or the developmentally disabled as provided in s. 435.07.~~

6.7. The provision of preservice and inservice training for all foster parents and agency staff.

7.8. Satisfactory evidence of financial ability to provide care for the children in compliance with licensing requirements.

8.9. The maintenance by the agency of records pertaining to admission, progress, health, and discharge of children served, including written case plans and reports to the department.

9.10. The provision for parental involvement to encourage preservation and strengthening of a child's relationship with the family.

10.11. The transportation safety of children served.

11.12. The provisions for safeguarding the cultural, religious, and ethnic values of a child.

12.13. Provisions to safeguard the legal rights of children served.

13.14. Requiring signs to be conspicuously placed on the premises of facilities maintained by child-caring agencies to warn children of the dangers of human trafficking and to encourage the reporting of individuals observed attempting to engage in human trafficking activity. The signs must advise children to report concerns to the local law enforcement agency or the Department of Law Enforcement, specifying the appropriate telephone numbers used for such reports. The department shall specify, at a minimum, the content of the signs by rule.

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349  
350 The department may grant limited exemptions to the requirements  
351 provided in this paragraph which authorize a person to work in a  
352 specified role or with a specified population.

353 (14)

354 (e)1. In addition to any other preservice training required  
355 by law, foster parents, as a condition of licensure, and agency  
356 staff must successfully complete preservice training related to  
357 human trafficking which must be uniform statewide and must  
358 include, but need not be limited to:

359 a. Basic information on human trafficking, such as an  
360 understanding of relevant terminology, and the differences  
361 between sex trafficking and labor trafficking;

362 b. Factors and knowledge on identifying children at risk of  
363 human trafficking; and

364 c. Steps that should be taken to prevent at-risk youths  
365 from becoming victims of human trafficking.

366 2. Foster parents, before licensure renewal, and agency  
367 staff, during each full year of employment, must complete  
368 inservice training related to human trafficking to satisfy the  
369 training requirement under subparagraph (5)(b)6. ~~(5)(b)7.~~

370 Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (4) of section  
371 409.987, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

372 409.987 Lead agency procurement; boards; conflicts of  
373 interest.—

374 (4) In order to serve as a lead agency, an entity must:

375 (c) Demonstrate financial responsibility through an  
376 organized plan for regular fiscal audits and the posting of a  
377 performance bond; ~~and the posting of a fidelity bond to cover~~

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any costs associated with reprocurement and the assessed penalties related to a failure to disclose a conflict of interest under subsection (7).

Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of section 409.993, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (c), paragraph (a) is amended, and a new paragraph (b) is added to that subsection, to read:

409.993 Lead agencies and subcontractor liability.—

(3) SUBCONTRACTOR LIABILITY.—

(a) A subcontractor of an eligible community-based care lead agency that is a direct provider of foster care and related services to children and families, and its employees or officers, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) ~~(b)~~, must, as a part of its contract, obtain a minimum of \$1 million per occurrence with a policy period aggregate limit of \$3 million in general liability insurance coverage. The subcontractor of a lead agency must also require that staff who transport client children and families in their personal automobiles in order to carry out their job responsibilities obtain minimum bodily injury liability insurance in the amount of \$100,000 per person in any one automobile accident, and subject to such limits for each person, \$300,000 for all damages resulting from any one automobile accident, on their personal automobiles. In lieu of personal motor vehicle insurance, the subcontractor's casualty, liability, or motor vehicle insurance carrier may provide nonowned automobile liability coverage. This insurance provides liability insurance for automobiles that the subcontractor uses in connection with the subcontractor's business but does not own, lease, rent, or borrow. This coverage

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includes automobiles owned by the employees of the subcontractor or a member of the employee's household but only while the automobiles are used in connection with the subcontractor's business. The nonowned automobile coverage for the subcontractor applies as excess coverage over any other collectible insurance. The personal automobile policy for the employee of the subcontractor shall be primary insurance, and the nonowned automobile coverage of the subcontractor acts as excess insurance to the primary insurance. The subcontractor shall provide a minimum limit of \$1 million in nonowned automobile coverage. In a tort action brought against such subcontractor or employee, net economic damages shall be limited to \$2 million per liability claim and \$200,000 per automobile claim, including, but not limited to, past and future medical expenses, wage loss, and loss of earning capacity, offset by any collateral source payment paid or payable. In a tort action brought against such subcontractor, noneconomic damages shall be limited to \$400,000 per claim. A claims bill may be brought on behalf of a claimant pursuant to s. 768.28 for any amount exceeding the limits specified in this paragraph. Any offset of collateral source payments made as of the date of the settlement or judgment shall be in accordance with s. 768.76.

(b) A subcontractor of a lead agency that is a direct provider of foster care and related services is not liable for the acts or omissions of the lead agency, the department, or the officers, agents, or employees thereof. The limitation on liability established in this paragraph applies to contracts entered into or renewed after July 1, 2025.

Section 8. Subsection (27) is added to section 409.996,

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Florida Statutes, to read:

409.996 Duties of the Department of Children and Families.—  
The department shall contract for the delivery, administration,  
or management of care for children in the child protection and  
child welfare system. In doing so, the department retains  
responsibility for the quality of contracted services and  
programs and shall ensure that, at a minimum, services are  
delivered in accordance with applicable federal and state  
statutes and regulations and the performance standards and  
metrics specified in the strategic plan created under s.  
20.19(1).

(27)(a) Subject to appropriation, beginning July 1, 2025,  
the department shall develop a 4-year pilot program of treatment  
foster care or a substantially similar evidence-based program of  
professional foster care. The department shall implement the  
pilot program by January 1, 2026.

(b) The department shall implement and operate the pilot  
program and coordinate with community-based care lead agencies  
to develop a process for the placement of children in treatment  
foster care homes and deliver payment to the licensed providers  
operating the pilot treatment foster care homes.

(c) Community-based care lead agencies shall work with the  
department to recruit individuals and families as licensed  
providers and identify potential eligible children for placement  
in the pilot treatment foster care homes.

(d) Participation in the pilot program is limited to  
children who:

1. Are entering or continuing in foster care with high  
resource indicators, as determined by the department. These high



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resource indicators may include, but are not limited to, the potential for frequent placement change due to current or past behavior or Department of Juvenile Justice involvement; or

2. Are dependent and will require continued placement in foster care when the children are discharged from inpatient residential treatment.

(e) The department shall identify two judicial circuits within which the pilot program will be implemented. The department shall use relevant removal and placement data to identify areas with the greatest need for such a program.

(f) The department shall arrange for an independent evaluation of the pilot program to determine whether:

1. The pilot program is maintaining children in the least restrictive and most appropriate family-like setting near the child's home while he or she is in department care.

2. There is a long-term cost benefit associated with continuation and expansion of a treatment or professional foster care program.

(g) The department shall establish standards for the pilot program. Those standards must, at a minimum, ensure:

1. That placement of a child in a treatment foster care home is a temporary holistic treatment option and may not exceed 9 months. A one-time 3-month extension may be granted if the department determines that the child is not ready for discharge from a treatment foster care home at 9 months.

2. Development and implementation of specialized training for treatment foster parents in care coordination, de-escalation, crisis management, and other identified relevant skills needed to care for children with high behavioral health

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needs that cannot be or have not been met in traditional foster care placements.

3. No more than two eligible children are placed at any time in a treatment foster care home.

4. At least one foster parent with specialized training is available and dedicated to the care and treatment of placed children.

5. A 24 hour on-call crisis person is available to provide in-home crisis intervention and placement stabilization services.

(h) By January 1, 2030, the department shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a final report that includes the independent evaluation, the department's findings and evaluation, recommendations as to whether the pilot program should be continued and expanded statewide and, if so, fiscal and policy recommendations to ensure effective expansion and continued operation of the program.

Section 9. Subsection (11) is added to section 1004.615, Florida Statutes, to read:

1004.615 Florida Institute for Child Welfare.—

(11) An incentive provided to state employees for participating in the institute's research or evaluation as required by the institute's statutory mission under this section may not be considered a violation of s. 112.313 or require reporting under s. 112.3148.

Section 10. Section 402.30501, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

402.30501 Modification of introductory child care course

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for community college credit authorized.—The Department of Children and Families may modify the 40-clock-hour introductory course in child care under s. 402.305 or s. 402.3131 to meet the requirements of articulating the course to community college credit. Any modification must continue to provide that the course satisfies the requirements of s. 402.305(2)(d) ~~s. 402.305(2)(e)~~.

Section 11. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 1002.57, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.—

(3) The prekindergarten director credential must meet or exceed the requirements of the Department of Children and Families for the child care facility director credential under s. 402.305(2)(f) ~~s. 402.305(2)(g)~~, and successful completion of the prekindergarten director credential satisfies these requirements for the child care facility director credential.

(4) The department shall, to the maximum extent practicable, award credit to a person who successfully completes the child care facility director credential under s. 402.305(2)(f) ~~s. 402.305(2)(g)~~ for those requirements of the prekindergarten director credential which are duplicative of requirements for the child care facility director credential.

Section 12. Subsection (1) of section 1002.59, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards training courses.—

(1) The department, in collaboration with the Just Read, Florida! Office, shall adopt minimum standards for courses in emergent literacy for prekindergarten instructors. Each course

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must consist of 5 clock hours and provide instruction in strategies and techniques to address the age-appropriate progress of prekindergarten students in developing emergent literacy skills, including oral communication, knowledge of print and letters, phonological and phonemic awareness, vocabulary and comprehension development, and foundational background knowledge designed to correlate with the content that students will encounter in grades K-12, consistent with the evidence-based content and strategies grounded in the science of reading identified pursuant to s. 1001.215(7). The course standards must be reviewed as part of any review of subject coverage or endorsement requirements in the elementary, reading, and exceptional student educational areas conducted pursuant to s. 1012.586. Each course must also provide resources containing strategies that allow students with disabilities and other special needs to derive maximum benefit from the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program. Successful completion of an emergent literacy training course approved under this section satisfies requirements for approved training in early literacy and language development under ss. 402.305(2)(d)5. ~~ss. 402.305(2)(e)5.,~~ 402.313(6), and 402.3131(5).

Section 13. (1) Effective upon this act becoming a law, the Department of Children and Families shall convene a case management workforce workgroup by July 1, 2025. The workgroup shall be composed of persons with subject matter expertise in case management and child welfare policy.

(2) The department shall ensure the workgroup has at least two representatives with subject matter expertise in case management from each of the following:

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581        (a) The Department of Children and Families.  
582        (b) Community-based care lead agencies.  
583        (c) Contracted case management organizations.  
584        (3) In collaboration with the Florida Institute for Child  
585 Welfare, the workgroup shall do all of the following:  
586        (a) Review and analyze existing statutes, rules, operating  
587 procedures, and federal requirements relating to the provision  
588 of case management.  
589        (b) Review and analyze legislative changes relating to case  
590 management processes during the preceding 10 years and the  
591 impact that those changes have had on workload and workforce.  
592        (c) Gather statewide data to assess all of the following:  
593        1. Compliance with statutory requirements.  
594        2. Variations in case management practices.  
595        3. Current workforce capacity.  
596        4. Barriers to successful implementation of any statutes,  
597 rules, and operating procedures.  
598        (d) Solicit insight from stakeholders, including frontline  
599 workers, supervisors, and administrators, regarding challenges  
600 and potential solutions.  
601        (e) Analyze findings of the work conducted under paragraphs  
602 (a)-(d) to do all of the following:  
603        1. Identify any needed statutory changes.  
604        2. Evaluate whether the current structure, processes, and  
605 requirements of the statutes, rules, and operating procedures  
606 are duplicative or unworkable.  
607        3. Evaluate how well case managers are implementing policy.  
608        (f) Develop clear and actionable recommendations to  
609 streamline, clarify, standardize, and implement case management

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610 processes and practices that address workforce retention and  
611 allow for local community innovation.

612 (4) The workgroup shall meet as often as necessary to carry  
613 out these duties and responsibilities and shall operate until  
614 December 1, 2025, at which time it shall submit to the Governor,  
615 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
616 Representatives a report that summarizes its work, describes and  
617 details its analysis of data, and recommends clear actionable  
618 policy.

619 Section 14. Effective upon this act becoming law, the  
620 Department of Children and Families shall contract for a  
621 detailed study of bed capacity for residential treatment  
622 services and a gap analysis of nonresidential treatment services  
623 for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation identified  
624 by the child welfare systems of care and those not involved in  
625 the child welfare systems of care. The study must include  
626 analyses of current capacity, current and projected future  
627 demand, and the state's current and projected future ability to  
628 meet that demand. The study must be completed by December 31,  
629 2025, and must, at a minimum, include all of the following:

630 (1) By department region, the current number of residential  
631 treatment beds in safe homes for treatment of child victims of  
632 commercial sexual exploitation, the number of individuals  
633 admitted and discharged annually, the types and frequency of  
634 diagnoses, and the lengths of stays.

635 (2) By department region, the current number of specialized  
636 safe therapeutic foster home placements for child victims of  
637 commercial sexual exploitation, the number of placements  
638 annually, and the lengths of stays.

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639       (3) By department region, an analysis of nonresidential  
640 treatment services for child victims of commercial sexual  
641 exploitation and the utilization of such services.

642       (4) Policy recommendations for ensuring sufficient bed  
643 capacity for residential treatment beds, ensuring specialized  
644 safe therapeutic foster home placements, and enhancing services  
645 for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation which could  
646 prevent the need for residential treatment beds.

647       Section 15. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
648 act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon  
649 this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1,  
650 2025.