

CS/HB 395

2026

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to dependent children; amending s. 39.4085, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and Families and each community-based care lead agency to coordinate with certain organizations and meet quarterly for a specified purpose; authorizing such meeting to be in person or via teleconference or other electronic means; requiring such meetings to have a formal agenda; requiring the department and each community-based care lead agency to make certain information available on their respective websites; requiring, beginning in a specified year, the department and each community-based care lead agency to publish on their respective websites a biannual report containing specified information; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 39.4085, Florida Statutes, to read:

39.4085 Goals for dependent children; responsibilities; education; Office of the Children's Ombudsman.—

(6) (a) The department shall coordinate with organizations that are focused on empowering children with lived experience.

26 The department and such organizations must meet quarterly, at a
27 minimum, in person or via teleconference or other electronic
28 means to solicit input on ways to address challenges and
29 opportunities for children in the child welfare system. Each
30 meeting must have a formal agenda, and such agenda and the
31 minutes from each meeting must be made available on the
32 department's website.

33 (b) Each community-based care lead agency shall coordinate
34 with organizations that are focused on empowering children with
35 lived experience. The community-based care lead agency and such
36 organizations must meet quarterly, at a minimum, in person or
37 via teleconference or other electronic means to solicit input on
38 ways to address challenges and opportunities for children in the
39 child welfare system. Each meeting must have a formal agenda,
40 and such agenda and the minutes from each meeting must be made
41 available on the community-based care lead agency's website.

42 (c) By February 1 and August 1 of each year, beginning in
43 2027, the department and each community-based care lead agency
44 must make publicly accessible on their respective websites a
45 report that outlines how the department and the community-based
46 care lead agencies have implemented the suggestions of the
47 organizations based on the meetings required in paragraphs (a)
48 and (b) .

49 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.