

STORAGE NAME: h0679.cf

DATE: January 31, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
ANALYSIS**

BILL #: HB 679

RELATING TO: Foster Care

SPONSOR(S): Representative Turnbull

TIED BILL(S): SB 1098 (I)

ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:

- (1) Children & Families
 - (2) Family Law & Children
 - (3) Health & Human Services Appropriations
 - (4)
 - (5)
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I. SUMMARY:

House Bill 679 authorizes the Department of Children & Family Services (DCF) to continue to provide foster care services to individuals 18 to 23 years of age who are enrolled full-time in a degree-granting program in a postsecondary educational institution, provided specified requirements are met. The foster care services must be terminated when the individual is 23 years of age or has completed, withdrawn or been expelled from the program or institution.

According to the DCF, \$341,000 per year would allow 55 youths to remain in college and complete a 4-year degree.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

The bill expands a government program to a population that would otherwise not receive the services.

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

Subsection (3) of s. 409.145, F.S., allows dependent youths to remain in foster care up to their 21st birthday if they are enrolled full time in an educational program or vocational program and maintain a 2.0 GPA. According to the Department of Children & Family Services, over the past two years approximately 114 youths had to leave college or find another method to subsidize their college education only because they turned 21 years of age. A typical college freshman is 18 years of age and 22 or 23 years of age at graduation.

When an individual is attending a community college, college, or university, the department may make foster care payments to the institution in lieu of payment to the foster parents or individual, for the purpose of room and board. The payments shall not exceed the amount that would have been paid to the foster parents had the individual remained in the foster home.

Section 240.235, F.S., exempts any student in long-term foster care or independent living, or who is adopted from the Department of Children and Family Services from the payment of all undergraduate fees, including fees associated with enrollment in college-preparatory instruction or completion of college-level communication and computation skills testing programs. The exemption is to be valid for no more than 4 years after the date of graduation from high school.

Section 240.35, F.S., exempts students in foster care from the payment of all undergraduate fees. The exemption is valid for no more than 4 years after the date of graduation from high school. As a condition for continued fee exemption, the student must maintain a 2.0 grade point average for college work

C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill would allow individuals in foster care additional time to complete a college degree.

D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1.

Authorizes the DCF to continue to provide foster care services to individuals 18 to 23 years of age who are enrolled full-time in a degree-granting program in a postsecondary educational institution, provided specified requirements are met. The foster care services must be terminated when the individual is 23 years of age or has completed, withdrawn or been expelled from the program or institution.

Section 2.

The act takes effect upon becoming law.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

\$341,000

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

N/A

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

According to the DCF, \$341,000 per year would allow 55 youths to remain in college and complete a 4-year degree.

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

The bill will not reduce the authority of municipalities and counties to raise revenues.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill will not reduce the state tax shared with counties and municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

N/A

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

N/A

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

N/A

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

N/A

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES:

Prepared by:

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Bob Barrios

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