Florida Senate - 2000

By Senator Cowin

11-631-00 1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to foster care and related 3 services; providing legislative intent; 4 providing an effective date. 5 6 WHEREAS, the Legislature has directed that foster care 7 and related services be privatized through contracts with community-based providers, and 8 9 WHEREAS, the transition to a statewide system of 10 community-based foster care and related services is already underway in several locations around the state, and 11 12 WHEREAS, this transition is complicated by a significant and unprecedented increase in the number of 13 children entering out-of-home care, and 14 WHEREAS, there is a need to strengthen the level of 15 confidence that communities have in the state's involvement in 16 17 the emerging privatized community-based system, and WHEREAS, foster parents are critical in meeting the 18 19 needs of abused children, regardless of whether foster care 20 and related services are provided by the public or private 21 sector, and yet find themselves increasingly frustrated in 22 their ability to serve effectively as foster parents, NOW, 23 THEREFORE, 24 25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 26 27 The Legislature intends to provide Section 1. 28 direction to providers of foster care and related services 29 which will enhance the ability of foster parents to 30 effectively carry out their responsibilities in meeting the needs of the children in their care. In addition, the 31 1

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Legislature intends to further clarify the role of state government in the increasingly community-based system of foster care and related services. Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law. б SENATE SUMMARY Provides legislative intent relating to foster care and related services.

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