

## HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

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BILL: CS/CS/SB 1214

SPONSOR: Appropriations Committee, Children and Families Committee, Senators Peaden and Cowin

SUBJECT: Foster Care/Residential Group Care

PREPARED BY: Senate Committee on Children and Families

DATE: May 1, 2001

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### **I. Amendments Contained in Message:**

**House Amendment 1 – 483633 to CS/CS/SB 1214** (body with title)

### **II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:**

House Amendment 1 does the following:

- Amends s. 39.402, F.S., regarding shelter hearings to specify that the Department of Children and Family Services (department) must provide a recommendation to the court for scheduled contact between the child and parents. If the court orders visitation and the visit does not commence within 72 hours after the shelter hearing, the amendment states that the department must provide justification to the court. The amendment also specifies that the department must make referral information available to parents or legal custodians seeking voluntary services and participation in services must not be considered an admission or other acknowledgement of the allegations in the shelter petition.
- Changes the age from 12 years to 11 years of age for a child in districts 4, 11, 12, and the Suncoast Region who must be assessed for placement in licensed residential group care because he/she has been in family foster care for 6 months or longer and moved more than once. Specifies that this assessment procedure must be implemented to the extent that appropriations are available for this purpose in the General Appropriations Act
- Specifies that comprehensive residential services to children who have extraordinary needs must be implemented to the extent of available appropriations contained in the General Appropriations Act.
- Specifies that Model comprehensive residential services programs in Dade county and Manatee county must be implemented to the extent of available appropriations contained in the General Appropriations Act.
- Amends s. 409.176, F.S., requiring that registration of residential child-caring agencies and family foster homes include proof of compliance with the uniform fire safety standards required in chapter 633, F.S.
- Amends s. 435.045, F.S., modifying requirements for placement of dependent children to authorize the department to conduct criminal record checks equivalent to level 2 screening under s. 435.04(1), F.S., for any person being considered by the department for placement of a child subject to a placement decision pursuant to chapter 39, F.S.

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- Directs the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to provide the Legislature with a status report on the child protection program no later than February 1, 2002, and specifies data and information to be included in the report such as current statistics on the abuse hotline, reasons cases not closed by the districts, turnover rate of the child protective investigator staff, strategies to retain investigator staff, and the department's progress in implementing the HomeSafeNet information system.