

## HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

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BILL: CS/CS/SB 632, 1<sup>st</sup> Engrossed  
SPONSOR: Appropriations Committee, Children and Families Committee and Senator Peadar  
SUBJECT: Residential Group Care  
PREPARED BY: Senate Committee on Children and Families  
DATE: March 18, 2002

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### I. Amendments Contained in Message:

**House Amendment 1 – 734597 to CS/CS/SB 632, 1<sup>st</sup> Eng.** (body with title)

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

**House Amendment 1** includes the following differences:

Amends s. 409.1671(1)(c), F.S., to require that for purposes of competing for a privatization project, an agency must have written agreements with Healthy Families Florida lead entities in their community pursuant to s. 409.153 to promote cooperative planning for the provision of prevention and intervention services.

Specifies that, in the development of a statewide proposal regarding the long-term use and structure of a share-earnings program, the General Appropriations Act shall include funds in a lump sum in the Administered Funds Program which constitute partial security for lead agency contract performance. The Department of Children and Family Services must use this appropriation to offset the need for a performance bond for that fiscal year after a comparison of risk to the funds available and the performance bond may not exceed 2.5 percent of the annual contract value.

Eliminates the term “family foster group homes” in s. 409.175(2)(e), F.S., the statutory definition of “family foster home.” Specifies that the total number of children placed in each family foster home is based on the recommendation of the Department of Children and Family Services or the community-based lead agency. If the total number of children in a family foster home exceeds five, including the family’s own children, a comprehensive behavioral health assessment on each child to be placed in the home must be completed prior to the placement of any additional children in the home. The assessment must comply with Medicaid rules and regulations, assess and document the mental, physical, and psychosocial needs of the child and recommend the maximum number of children in a family foster home that will allow the child’s needs to be met. For any licensed family foster home, the appropriateness of the number of children in the home must be reassessed annually as part of the licensure process. For a home with more than five children, relicensure may not be denied based on the total number of children in the home if there have been no substantive licensure violations and no indications of child maltreatment or child-on-child sexual abuse within the past 12 months.

Makes a technical correction to Section 10 of the amendment specifying that the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability is responsible for submitting a report of findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature regarding its review of the process for placing children for residential mental health treatment.