

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to community-based care lead agencies;
3 amending s. 39.6251, F.S.; providing legislative
4 findings and intent; providing additional eligibility
5 requirements for a child to remain in licensed care;
6 providing additional grounds for termination of
7 eligibility for a young adult in extended foster care;
8 providing additional factors for court consideration
9 in reviewing a young adult's status in care; providing
10 for portability of services; amending s. 393.065,
11 F.S.; providing additional criteria for determination
12 of eligibility and priority for receipt of waiver
13 services; amending s. 409.1451, F.S.; deleting
14 legislative findings and intent relating to the Road-
15 to-Independence Program; revising eligibility
16 requirements for postsecondary education services and
17 support, financial assistance, and aftercare services;
18 revising provisions relating to portability of
19 services; amending s. 409.175, F.S.; including certain
20 young adults in the definition of the term "child" for
21 purposes of licensure requirements for entities
22 providing residential services for children; amending
23 ss. 409.165 and 420.0004, F.S.; conforming cross-
24 references; providing an effective date.

25
26 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

27
 28 Section 1. Section 39.6251, Florida Statutes, is amended
 29 to read:

30 39.6251 Continuing care for young adults.—

31 (1) (a) The Legislature recognizes that most children and
 32 young adults are resilient and, with adequate support, can
 33 expect to be successful as independent adults. Not unlike many
 34 young adults, some young adults who have lived in foster care
 35 need additional support and resources for a period of time after
 36 reaching 18 years of age.

37 (b) The Legislature finds that while it is important to
 38 provide young adults who have lived in foster care with
 39 education and independent living skills, there is also a need to
 40 focus more broadly on creating and preserving family
 41 relationships so that young adults have a permanent connection
 42 with at least one committed adult who provides a safe and stable
 43 parenting relationship.

44 (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that young adults
 45 who choose to participate in the Road-to-Independence Program
 46 receive the skills, education, and support necessary to become
 47 self-sufficient and leave foster care with a lifelong connection
 48 to a supportive adult through continuing in foster care until
 49 they are prepared to succeed in the Road-to-Independence Program
 50 by receiving postsecondary education services and support.

51 (2) ~~(1)~~ As used in this section, the term "child" means an
 52 individual who has not attained 21 years of age, and the term

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53 "young adult" means an individual who has attained 18 years of
54 age but who has not attained 21 years of age.

55 ~~(3)-(2)~~ The primary goal for a child in care is permanency.
56 A child who is living in licensed care on his or her 18th
57 birthday and who has not achieved permanency under s. 39.621 is
58 eligible to remain in licensed care under the jurisdiction of
59 the court and in the care of the department. A child is eligible
60 to remain in licensed care if he or she is residing in a
61 supervised living arrangement that is approved by the department
62 or a community-based care lead agency, using a reasonable and
63 prudent parent standard, and is:

64 (a) Completing secondary education or a program leading to
65 an equivalent credential;

66 (b) Enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary
67 or vocational education;

68 (c) Participating in a program or activity designed to
69 promote or eliminate barriers to employment;

70 (d) Verifiably employed for at least 80 hours per month;
71 or

72 (e) Unable to participate in programs or activities listed
73 in paragraphs (a)-(d) full time due to a physical, intellectual,
74 emotional, or psychiatric condition that limits participation.
75 Any such barrier to participation must be supported by
76 documentation in the child's case file or school or medical
77 records of a physical, intellectual, or psychiatric condition
78 that impairs the child's ability to perform one or more life

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79 activities.

80 (4)~~(3)~~ The permanency goal for a young adult who chooses
81 to remain in care is transition from licensed care to
82 independent living.

83 (5)~~(4)~~(a) ~~The young adult must reside in a supervised~~
84 ~~living environment that is approved by the department or a~~
85 ~~community-based care lead agency.~~ The young adult shall live
86 independently, but in an arrangement environment in which he or
87 she is provided supervision, case management, and supportive
88 services by the department or lead agency. Such an arrangement
89 ~~environment~~ must offer developmentally appropriate freedom and
90 responsibility to prepare the young adult for adulthood. For the
91 purposes of this subsection, a supervised living arrangement may
92 include a licensed foster home, licensed group home, college
93 dormitory, shared housing, apartment, or another housing
94 arrangement if the arrangement is approved by the community-
95 based care lead agency and is acceptable to the young adult,
96 with first choice being a licensed foster home. A young adult
97 may continue to reside with the same licensed foster family or
98 group care provider with whom he or she was residing at the time
99 he or she reached the age of 18 years.

100 (b) Before approving the residential setting in which the
101 young adult will live, the department or community-based care
102 lead agency must ensure that:

103 1. The young adult will be provided with a level of
104 supervision consistent with his or her individual education,

105 health care needs, permanency plan, and independent living goals
 106 as assessed by the department or lead agency with input from the
 107 young adult. Twenty-four hour onsite supervision is not
 108 required; however, 24-hour crisis intervention and support must
 109 be available.

110 2. The young adult will live in an independent living
 111 arrangement ~~environment~~ that offers, at a minimum, life skills
 112 instruction, counseling, educational support, employment
 113 preparation and placement, and development of support networks.
 114 The determination of the type and duration of services shall be
 115 based on the young adult's assessed needs, interests, and input
 116 and must be consistent with the goals set in the young adult's
 117 case plan.

118 (6)~~(5)~~ Eligibility for a young adult to remain in extended
 119 foster care ends on the earliest of the dates that the young
 120 adult:

121 (a) Reaches 21 years of age or, in the case of a young
 122 adult with a disability, reaches 22 years of age;

123 (b) Leaves care to live in a permanent home consistent
 124 with his or her permanency plan;

125 (c) Fails to participate in a qualifying activity under
 126 subsection (3);

127 (d) Refuses to comply with the reasonable and prudent
 128 parent standards of the supervised living arrangement; or

129 (e)~~(e)~~ Knowingly and voluntarily withdraws his or her
 130 consent to participate in extended care. Withdrawal of consent

131 to participate in extended care shall be verified by the court
132 pursuant to s. 39.701~~7~~ unless the young adult refuses to
133 participate in any further court proceeding.

134 (7)~~(6)~~ A young adult who is between the ages of 18 and 21
135 and who has left care may return to care by applying to the
136 community-based care lead agency for readmission. The community-
137 based care lead agency shall readmit the young adult if he or
138 she continues to meet the eligibility requirements in this
139 section.

140 (a) The department shall develop a standard procedure and
141 application packet for readmission to care to be used by all
142 community-based care lead agencies.

143 (b) Within 30 days after the young adult has been
144 readmitted to care, the community-based care lead agency shall
145 assign a case manager to update the case plan and the transition
146 plan and to arrange for the required services. Such activities
147 shall be undertaken in consultation with the young adult. The
148 department shall petition the court to reinstate jurisdiction
149 over the young adult. Notwithstanding s. 39.013(2), the court
150 shall resume jurisdiction over the young adult if the department
151 establishes that he or she continues to meet the eligibility
152 requirements in this section.

153 (8)~~(7)~~ During each period of time that a young adult is in
154 care, the community-based lead agency shall provide regular case
155 management reviews that must include at least monthly contact
156 with the case manager. If a young adult lives outside the

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157 service area of his or her community-based care lead agency,
158 monthly contact may occur by telephone.

159 (9)~~(8)~~ During the time that a young adult is in care, the
160 court shall maintain jurisdiction to ensure that the department
161 and the lead agencies are providing services and coordinate
162 with, and maintain oversight of, other agencies involved in
163 implementing the young adult's case plan, individual education
164 plan, and transition plan. The court shall review the status of
165 the young adult, including the young adult's participation in
166 the transition plan, progress in a qualifying activity, or
167 compliance with his or her supervised living arrangement, at
168 least every 6 months and hold a permanency review hearing at
169 least annually. The court may appoint a guardian ad litem or
170 continue the appointment of a guardian ad litem with the young
171 adult's consent. The young adult or any other party to the
172 dependency case may request an additional hearing or review.

173 (10) The services provided under this section are portable
174 across county lines and between lead agencies.

175 (a) The service needs that are identified in the original
176 or updated transition plan pursuant to s. 39.6035 shall be
177 provided by the lead agency where the young adult is currently
178 residing but shall be funded by the lead agency that initiated
179 the transition plan.

180 (b) The lead agency with primary case management
181 responsibilities shall provide maintenance payments, case
182 planning, including a written description of all services that

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183 will assist a child in preparing for the transition from care to
184 independence, and regular case reviews that conform with all
185 federal scheduling and content requirements for all children in
186 foster care who are placed or visiting out of state.

187 ~~(11)~~~~(9)~~ The department shall establish a procedure by
188 which a young adult may appeal a determination of eligibility to
189 remain in care that was made by a community-based care lead
190 agency. The procedure must be readily accessible to young
191 adults, must provide for timely decisions, and must provide for
192 an appeal to the department. The decision of the department
193 constitutes final agency action and is reviewable by the court
194 as provided in s. 120.68.

195 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of section
196 393.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

197 393.065 Application and eligibility determination.—

198 (5) Except as otherwise directed by law, beginning July 1,
199 2010, the agency shall assign and provide priority to clients
200 waiting for waiver services in the following order:

201 (a) Category 1, which includes clients deemed to be in
202 crisis as described in rule and young adults who are in foster
203 care when they attain 18 years of age under chapter 39.

204
205 Within categories 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, the agency shall maintain a
206 wait list of clients placed in the order of the date that the
207 client is determined eligible for waiver services.

208 Section 3. Section 409.1451, Florida Statutes, as amended

209 | by chapters 2014-39 and 2014-184, Laws of Florida, is amended to
 210 | read:

211 | 409.1451 The Road-to-Independence Program.—

212 | ~~(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—~~

213 | ~~(a) The Legislature recognizes that most children and~~
 214 | ~~young adults are resilient and, with adequate support, can~~
 215 | ~~expect to be successful as independent adults. Not unlike many~~
 216 | ~~young adults, some young adults who have lived in foster care~~
 217 | ~~need additional support and resources for a period of time after~~
 218 | ~~reaching 18 years of age.~~

219 | ~~(b) The Legislature finds that while it is important to~~
 220 | ~~provide young adults who have lived in foster care with~~
 221 | ~~education and independent living skills, there is also a need to~~
 222 | ~~focus more broadly on creating and preserving family~~
 223 | ~~relationships so that young adults have a permanent connection~~
 224 | ~~with at least one committed adult who provides a safe and stable~~
 225 | ~~parenting relationship.~~

226 | ~~(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that young adults~~
 227 | ~~who choose to participate in the program receive the skills,~~
 228 | ~~education, and support necessary to become self-sufficient and~~
 229 | ~~leave foster care with a lifelong connection to a supportive~~
 230 | ~~adult through the Road-to-Independence Program, either through~~
 231 | ~~postsecondary education services and support, as provided in~~
 232 | ~~subsection (2), or aftercare services.~~

233 | (1)~~(2)~~ POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORT.—

234 | (a) A young adult is eligible for services and support

235 under this subsection if he or she:

236 1. Was living in licensed care on his or her 18th birthday
237 or is currently living in licensed care; or was at least 16
238 years of age and was adopted from foster care or placed with a
239 court-approved dependency guardian after spending at least 6
240 months in licensed care within the 12 months immediately
241 preceding such placement or adoption;

242 2. Spent at least 6 months in licensed care before
243 reaching his or her 18th birthday;

244 3. Earned a standard high school diploma pursuant to s.
245 1002.3105(5), s. 1003.4281, or s. 1003.4282, or its equivalent
246 pursuant to s. 1003.435;

247 4. Is attending, ~~Has been admitted for enrollment~~ as a
248 full-time student or its equivalent, ~~in~~ an eligible
249 postsecondary educational institution as provided in s.
250 1009.533. For purposes of this section, the term "full-time"
251 means 9 credit hours or its academic ~~the vocational school~~
252 equivalent. A student may enroll part-time if he or she has a
253 recognized disability or is faced with another challenge or
254 circumstance that would prevent full-time attendance. A student
255 needing to enroll part-time for any reason other than having a
256 recognized disability must get approval from his or her academic
257 advisor;

258 5. Has reached 18 years of age but is not yet 23 years of
259 age;

260 6. Has applied, with assistance from the young adult's

261 caregiver and the community-based lead agency, for any other
262 grants and scholarships for which he or she may qualify;

263 7. Submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid
264 which is complete and error free; and

265 8. Signed an agreement to allow the department and the
266 community-based care lead agency access to school records.

267 (b) The amount of the financial assistance shall be as
268 follows:

269 1. For a young adult who does not remain in foster care
270 and is attending a postsecondary school as provided in s.
271 1009.533, the amount is \$1,256 monthly.

272 2. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is
273 attending a postsecondary school, as provided in s. 1009.533,
274 and continues to reside in a licensed foster home, the amount is
275 the established room and board rate for foster parents. This
276 takes the place of the payment provided for in s. 409.145(4).

277 3. For a young adult who remains in foster care, but
278 temporarily resides away from a licensed foster home for
279 purposes of attending a postsecondary school as provided in s.
280 1009.533, the amount is \$1,256 monthly. This takes the place of
281 the payment provided for in s. 409.145(4).

282 4. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is
283 attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, and
284 continues to reside in a licensed group home, the amount is
285 negotiated between the community-based care lead agency and the
286 licensed group home provider.

287 5. For a young adult who remains in foster care, but
288 temporarily resides away from a licensed group home for purposes
289 of attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533,
290 the amount is \$1,256 monthly. This takes the place of a
291 negotiated room and board rate.

292 6. The amount of the award may be disregarded for purposes
293 of determining the eligibility for, or the amount of, any other
294 federal or federally supported assistance.

295 7. A young adult is eligible to receive financial
296 assistance during the months when attending ~~enrolled in~~ a
297 postsecondary educational institution. However, a young adult
298 who has successfully completed a semester and is enrolled for
299 the next semester is eligible to receive financial assistance
300 during semester breaks, including the summer months.

301 (c) Payment of financial assistance for a young adult who:

302 1. Has chosen not to remain in foster care and is
303 attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533,
304 shall be made to the community-based care lead agency in order
305 to secure housing and utilities, with the balance being paid
306 directly to the young adult until such time the lead agency and
307 the young adult determine that the young adult can successfully
308 manage the full amount of the assistance.

309 2. Has remained in foster care under s. 39.6251 and who is
310 attending postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, shall
311 be made directly to the foster parent or group home provider.

312 3. Community-based care lead agencies or other contracted

313 providers are prohibited from charging a fee associated with
314 administering the Road-to-Independence payments.

315 (d)1. The department must advertise the availability of
316 the stipend and must provide notification of the criteria and
317 application procedures for the stipend to children and young
318 adults leaving, or who were formerly in, foster care;
319 caregivers; case managers; guidance and family services
320 counselors; principals or other relevant school administrators;
321 and guardians ad litem.

322 2. If the award recipient transfers from one eligible
323 institution to another and continues to meet eligibility
324 requirements, the award shall be transferred with the recipient.

325 3. The department, or an agency under contract with the
326 department, shall evaluate each Road-to-Independence award for
327 renewal eligibility on an annual basis. In order to be eligible
328 for a renewal award for the subsequent year, the young adult
329 must:

330 a. Be enrolled for or have completed the number of hours,
331 or the equivalent, to be considered a full-time student under
332 subparagraph (a)4., unless the young adult qualifies for an
333 exception under subparagraph (a)4.

334 b. Maintain standards of academic progress as defined by
335 the education institution, except that if the young adult's
336 progress is insufficient to renew the award at any time during
337 the eligibility period, the young adult may continue to be
338 enrolled for additional terms while attempting to restore

339 eligibility as long as progress towards the required level is
340 maintained.

341 4. Funds may be terminated during the interim between an
342 award and the evaluation for a renewal award if the department,
343 or an agency under contract with the department, determines that
344 the award recipient is no longer enrolled in an educational
345 institution as described in subparagraph (a)4. or is no longer a
346 resident of this state.

347 5. The department, or an agency under contract with the
348 department, shall notify a recipient who is terminated and
349 inform the recipient of his or her right to appeal.

350 6. An award recipient who does not qualify for a renewal
351 award or who chooses not to renew the award may apply for
352 reinstatement. An application for reinstatement must be made
353 before the young adult reaches 23 years of age. In order to be
354 eligible for reinstatement, the young adult must meet the
355 eligibility criteria and the criteria for award renewal for the
356 program.

357 (2)~~(3)~~ AFTERCARE SERVICES.—

358 (a) Aftercare services are available to a young adult who
359 has reached 18 years of age but is not yet 23 years of age while
360 in licensed out-of-home care and is:

361 1. Not in foster care.

362 2. Temporarily not receiving financial assistance under
363 subsection (1) ~~(2)~~ to pursue postsecondary education.

364 (b) Aftercare services may be used as temporary support

365 for young adults. In addition, aftercare services may be used to
366 assist a young adult who has applied to return to foster care
367 under s. 39.6251 and has yet to be accepted. Aftercare services
368 may also be used to assist a young adult who has been enrolled
369 in a postsecondary educational institution and is awaiting the
370 start or resumption of classes.

371 (c)-(b) Aftercare services include, but are not limited to,
372 the following:

- 373 1. Mentoring and tutoring.
- 374 2. Mental health services and substance abuse counseling.
- 375 3. Life skills classes, including credit management and
376 preventive health activities.
- 377 4. Parenting classes.
- 378 5. Job and career skills training.
- 379 6. Counselor consultations.
- 380 7. Temporary financial assistance for necessities,
381 including, but not limited to, education supplies,
382 transportation expenses, security deposits for rent and
383 utilities, furnishings, household goods, and other basic living
384 expenses.
- 385 8. Financial literacy skills training.
- 386 9. Case management services.

387
388 The specific services to be provided under this paragraph shall
389 be determined by an assessment of the young adult and may be
390 provided by the community-based care provider or through

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391 referrals in the community.

392 (d)~~(e)~~ Temporary assistance provided to prevent
393 homelessness shall be provided as expeditiously as possible and
394 within the limitations defined by the department.

395 (3)~~(4)~~ APPEALS PROCESS.—

396 (a) The department shall have a procedure by which a young
397 adult may appeal the department's refusal to provide Road-to-
398 Independence Program services or support, or the termination of
399 such services or support if funds for such services or support
400 are available.

401 (b) The appeal procedure must be readily accessible to
402 young adults, must provide for timely decisions, and must
403 provide for an appeal to the department. The decision of the
404 department constitutes final agency action and is reviewable by
405 the court as provided in s. 120.68.

406 (4)~~(5)~~ PORTABILITY.—The services provided under this
407 section are portable across county lines and between lead
408 agencies.

409 (a) The service needs that are identified when a young
410 adult applies for postsecondary education services and support
411 or extended foster care in the original or updated transition
412 plan, pursuant to s. 39.6035, shall be provided by the lead
413 agency where the young adult is currently residing but shall be
414 funded by the lead agency that approved the application ~~who~~
415 ~~initiated the transition plan.~~

416 (b) The lead agency with primary case management

417 responsibilities shall provide maintenance payments and, case
418 planning, including a written description of all services that
419 will assist a child ~~16 years of age or older~~ in preparing for
420 the transition from care to independence, as well as regular
421 case reviews that conform with all federal scheduling and
422 content requirements, for all children in foster care who are
423 placed or visiting out-of-state.

424 (5)~~(6)~~ ACCOUNTABILITY.—The department shall develop
425 outcome measures for the program and other performance measures
426 in order to maintain oversight of the program. No later than
427 January 31 of each year, the department shall prepare a report
428 on the outcome measures and the department's oversight
429 activities and submit the report to the President of the Senate,
430 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the committees
431 with jurisdiction over issues relating to children and families
432 in the Senate and the House of Representatives. The report must
433 include:

434 (a) An analysis of performance on the outcome measures
435 developed under this section reported for each community-based
436 care lead agency and compared with the performance of the
437 department on the same measures.

438 (b) A description of the department's oversight of the
439 program, including, by lead agency, any programmatic or fiscal
440 deficiencies found, corrective actions required, and current
441 status of compliance.

442 (c) Any rules adopted or proposed under this section since

443 the last report. For the purposes of the first report, any rules
444 adopted or proposed under this section must be included.

445 (6)~~(7)~~ INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The
446 secretary shall establish the Independent Living Services
447 Advisory Council for the purpose of reviewing and making
448 recommendations concerning the implementation and operation of
449 the provisions of s. 39.6251 and the Road-to-Independence
450 Program. The advisory council shall function as specified in
451 this subsection until the Legislature determines that the
452 advisory council can no longer provide a valuable contribution
453 to the department's efforts to achieve the goals of the services
454 designed to enable a young adult to live independently.

455 (a) The advisory council shall assess the implementation
456 and operation of the Road-to-Independence Program and advise the
457 department on actions that would improve the ability of these
458 Road-to-Independence Program services to meet the established
459 goals. The advisory council shall keep the department informed
460 of problems being experienced with the services, barriers to the
461 effective and efficient integration of services and support
462 across systems, and successes that the system of services has
463 achieved. The department shall consider, but is not required to
464 implement, the recommendations of the advisory council.

465 (b) The advisory council shall report to the secretary on
466 the status of the implementation of the Road-to-Independence
467 Program, efforts to publicize the availability of the Road-to-
468 Independence Program, the success of the services, problems

469 identified, recommendations for department or legislative
470 action, and the department's implementation of the
471 recommendations contained in the Independent Living Services
472 Integration Workgroup Report submitted to the appropriate
473 substantive committees of the Legislature by December 31, 2013.
474 The department shall submit a report by December 31 of each year
475 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of
476 the House of Representatives which includes a summary of the
477 factors reported on by the council and identifies the
478 recommendations of the advisory council and either describes the
479 department's actions to implement the recommendations or
480 provides the department's rationale for not implementing the
481 recommendations.

482 (c) Members of the advisory council shall be appointed by
483 the secretary of the department. The membership of the advisory
484 council must include, at a minimum, representatives from the
485 headquarters and regional offices of the Department of Children
486 and Families, community-based care lead agencies, the Department
487 of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Economic Opportunity, the
488 Department of Education, the Agency for Health Care
489 Administration, the State Youth Advisory Board, Workforce
490 Florida, Inc., the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office, foster
491 parents, recipients of services and funding through the Road-to-
492 Independence Program, and advocates for children in care. The
493 secretary shall determine the length of the term to be served by
494 each member appointed to the advisory council, which may not

495 exceed 4 years.

496 (d) The department shall provide administrative support to
 497 the Independent Living Services Advisory Council to accomplish
 498 its assigned tasks. The advisory council shall be afforded
 499 access to all appropriate data from the department, each
 500 community-based care lead agency, and other relevant agencies in
 501 order to accomplish the tasks set forth in this section. The
 502 data collected may not include any information that would
 503 identify a specific child or young adult.

504 (e) The advisory council report required under paragraph
 505 (b) must include an analysis of the system of independent living
 506 transition services for young adults who reach 18 years of age
 507 while in foster care before completing high school or its
 508 equivalent and recommendations for department or legislative
 509 action. The council shall assess and report on the most
 510 effective method of assisting these young adults to complete
 511 high school or its equivalent by examining the practices of
 512 other states.

513 (7)~~(8)~~ PERSONAL PROPERTY.—Property acquired on behalf of a
 514 young adult in this program shall become the personal property
 515 of the young adult and is not subject to the requirements of
 516 chapter 273 relating to state-owned tangible personal property.
 517 Such property continues to be subject to applicable federal
 518 laws.

519 (8)~~(9)~~ MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR YOUNG ADULTS FORMERLY IN
 520 CARE.—The department or community-based care lead agency shall

521 document that eligible young adults are enrolled in Medicaid
 522 under s. 409.903(4).

523 (9)~~(10)~~ RULEMAKING.—The department shall adopt rules to
 524 administer this section.

525 Section 4. Paragraph (g) of subsection (4) of section
 526 409.165, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

527 409.165 Alternate care for children.—

528 (4) With the written consent of parents, custodians, or
 529 guardians, or in accordance with those provisions in chapter 39
 530 that relate to dependent children, the department, under rules
 531 properly adopted, may place a child:

532 (g) In a subsidized independent living situation,~~subject~~
 533 ~~to the provisions of s. 409.1451(4)(c),~~

534
 535 under such conditions as are determined to be for the best
 536 interests or the welfare of the child. Any child placed in an
 537 institution or in a family home by the department or its agency
 538 may be removed by the department or its agency, and such other
 539 disposition may be made as is for the best interest of the
 540 child, including transfer of the child to another institution,
 541 another home, or the home of the child. Expenditure of funds
 542 appropriated for out-of-home care can be used to meet the needs
 543 of a child in the child's own home or the home of a relative if
 544 the child can be safely served in the child's own home or that
 545 of a relative if placement can be avoided by the expenditure of
 546 such funds, and if the expenditure of such funds in this manner

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547 is equal to or less than the cost of out-of-home placement.

548 Section 5. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
549 409.175, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

550 409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential
551 child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies; public
552 records exemption.—

553 (2) As used in this section, the term:

554 (c) "Child" means:

555 1. An ~~any~~ unmarried person under the age of 18 years; or

556 2. A young adult who has chosen to continue in foster care
557 pursuant to s. 39.6251.

558 Section 6. Subsection (13) of section 420.0004, Florida
559 Statutes, is amended to read:

560 420.0004 Definitions.—As used in this part, unless the
561 context otherwise indicates:

562 (13) "Person with special needs" means an adult person
563 requiring independent living services in order to maintain
564 housing or develop independent living skills and who has a
565 disabling condition; a young adult formerly in foster care who
566 is eligible for services under s. 409.1451(1) ~~409.1451(5)~~; a
567 survivor of domestic violence as defined in s. 741.28; or a
568 person receiving benefits under the Social Security Disability
569 Insurance (SSDI) program or the Supplemental Security Income
570 (SSI) program or from veterans' disability benefits.

571 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.