

Amendment No.

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED AS AMENDED	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
FAILED TO ADOPT	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
WITHDRAWN	<u> </u>	(Y/N)
OTHER	<u> </u>	

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Health & Human Services
2 Committee

3 Representative Harrell offered the following:

4

5 **Amendment (with title amendment)**

6 Between lines 362 and 363, insert:

7 Section 6. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section
8 125.901, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

9 125.901 Children's services; independent special district;
10 council; powers, duties, and functions; public records
11 exemption.—

12 (4)

13 (b)1.a. Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the governing body
14 of the county shall submit the question of retention or
15 dissolution of a district with voter-approved taxing authority
16 to the electorate in the general election according to the

Amendment No.

17 following schedule:

18 (I) For a district in existence on July 1, 2010, and
19 serving a county with a population of 400,000 or fewer persons
20 as of that date.....2014.

21 (II) For a district in existence on July 1, 2010, and
22 serving a county with a population of 2 million or more persons
23 as of that date, unless the governing body of the county has
24 previously submitted such question voluntarily to the electorate
25 for a second time since 2005,.....2020.

26 b. A referendum by the electorate on or after July 1,
27 2010, creating a new district with taxing authority may specify
28 that the district is not subject to reauthorization or may
29 specify the number of years for which the initial authorization
30 shall remain effective. If the referendum does not prescribe
31 terms of reauthorization, the governing body of the county shall
32 submit the question of retention or dissolution of the district
33 to the electorate in the general election 12 years after the
34 initial authorization.

35 2. The governing body of the district may specify, and
36 submit to the governing body of the county no later than 9
37 months before the scheduled election, that the district is not
38 subsequently subject to reauthorization or may specify the
39 number of years for which a reauthorization under this paragraph
40 shall remain effective. If the governing body of the district
41 makes such specification and submission, the governing body of

Amendment No.

42 the county shall include that information in the question
43 submitted to the electorate. If the governing body of the
44 district does not specify and submit such information, the
45 governing body of the county shall resubmit the question of
46 reauthorization to the electorate every 12 years after the year
47 prescribed in subparagraph 1. The governing body of the district
48 may recommend to the governing body of the county language for
49 the question submitted to the electorate.

50 3. Nothing in this paragraph limits the authority to
51 dissolve a district as provided under paragraph (a).

52 4. Nothing in this paragraph precludes the governing body
53 of a district from requesting that the governing body of the
54 county submit the question of retention or dissolution of a
55 district with voter-approved taxing authority to the electorate
56 at a date earlier than the year prescribed in subparagraph 1. If
57 the governing body of the county accepts the request and submits
58 the question to the electorate, the governing body satisfies the
59 requirement of that subparagraph.

60 Section 7. Subsections (22) and (23) are added to section
61 409.996, Florida Statutes, to read:

62 409.996 Duties of the Department of Children and
63 Families.—The department shall contract for the delivery,
64 administration, or management of care for children in the child
65 protection and child welfare system. In doing so, the department
66 retains responsibility for the quality of contracted services

046129 - h7075-ln362.docx

Published On: 4/19/2017 6:51:00 PM

Amendment No.

67 and programs and shall ensure that services are delivered in
68 accordance with applicable federal and state statutes and
69 regulations.

70 (22) The department shall develop, in collaboration with
71 the Florida Institute for Child Welfare, lead agencies, service
72 providers, current and former foster children placed in
73 residential group care, and other community stakeholders, a
74 statewide accountability system for residential group care
75 providers based on measureable quality standards.

76 (a) The accountability system shall promote high quality
77 in services and accommodation that differentiates between shift
78 and family-style models and programs and services for children
79 with specialized or extraordinary needs, such as pregnant teens
80 and children with Department of Juvenile Justice involvement. It
81 shall include a quality measurement system with clearly defined
82 levels of quality, domains measured for each level of quality,
83 and criteria that providers must meet to achieve each level of
84 quality. Domains addressed by the quality measurement system for
85 residential group care providers may include, but are not
86 limited to, admissions, service planning and treatment planning,
87 living environment, 6 and 12 month post care outcomes, and
88 program and service requirements. The quality measurement system
89 shall also consider the level of availability of trauma informed
90 care, delivery of mental health and physical health services
91 where needed, engagement with the child's school, and

046129 - h7075-ln362.docx

Published On: 4/19/2017 6:51:00 PM

Amendment No.

92 opportunities for children to be involved in extra-curricular
93 activities.

94 (b) Each lead agency shall implement the accountability
95 system in its area. The lead agency shall create a quality
96 evaluation process using the quality measurement system in
97 paragraph (a), establish incentives for providers to improve
98 their quality level, and take appropriate action in response to
99 the results of the quality evaluations.

100 (c) The department shall submit a report to the Governor,
101 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
102 Representatives by October 1 of each year, with the first report
103 due October 1, 2017. The report must, at a minimum, include an
104 update on the development of a statewide accountability system
105 for residential group care providers and a plan for department
106 oversight of the implementation of the statewide accountability
107 system for residential group care providers by the community-
108 based care lead agencies. After implementation of the statewide
109 accountability system, and in subsequent years, the report must
110 also contain a list of residential group care providers meeting
111 minimum quality standards and their quality ratings; the
112 percentage of children placed in residential group care with
113 highly rated providers; and any negative action taken against
114 contracted providers for not meeting minimum quality standards.

115 (d) The accountability system must be implemented by each
116 lead agency by July 1, 2022.

Amendment No.

117 (e) Nothing in this subsection affects the department's
118 licensure authority under s. 409.175.

119 (f) The department may adopt rules to administer this
120 subsection.

121 (23)(a) The department shall convene a workgroup in
122 collaboration with the Florida Institute for Child Welfare on
123 foster home quality. The workgroup, at a minimum, shall identify
124 measures of foster home quality, review current efforts by lead
125 agencies and their subcontractors to enhance foster home
126 quality, identify barriers to the greater availability of high-
127 quality foster homes, and recommend additional strategies for
128 assessing the quality of foster homes and increasing the
129 availability of high-quality foster homes.

130 (b) The workgroup shall include representatives from the
131 department, the Florida Institute for Child Welfare, foster
132 parents, current and former foster children, and foster parent
133 organizations, lead agencies, child-placing agencies, other
134 service providers, and other participants as determined by the
135 department.

136 (c) The Florida Institute for Child Welfare shall provide
137 the workgroup with relevant research on, at a minimum, measures
138 of quality of foster homes; evidence-supported strategies to
139 increase the availability of high-quality foster homes, such as
140 those regarding recruitment, screening, training, retention, and
141 child placement; descriptions and results of quality improvement

Amendment No.

142 efforts in other jurisdictions; and the root causes of placement
143 disruption.

144 (e) The department shall submit a report to the Governor,
145 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
146 Representatives by November 1, 2017. The report shall, at a
147 minimum:

148 1. Describe the important dimensions of quality for foster
149 homes;

150 2. Describe the foster home quality enhancement efforts in
151 the state, including but not limited to recruitment, retention,
152 placement procedures, systems change, and quality measurement
153 programs, and any positive or negative results;

154 3. Identify barriers to the greater availability of high-
155 quality foster homes;

156 4. Discuss available research regarding high-quality foster
157 homes; and

158 5. Present a plan for developing and implementing strategies
159 to increase the availability of high-quality foster homes. The
160 strategies shall address important elements of quality, be based
161 on available research, include both qualitative and quantitative
162 measures of quality, integrate with the community-based care
163 model, and be respectful of the privacy and needs of foster
164 parents. The plan shall recommend possible instruments and
165 measures and identify any changes to statute or rule necessary
166 for implementation.

046129 - h7075-ln362.docx

Published On: 4/19/2017 6:51:00 PM

Amendment No.

167
168
169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190

T I T L E A M E N D M E N T

Remove lines 11-19 and insert:
amending s. 125.901, F.S.; creating an exception to the
requirement that, for an independent special district in
existence on a certain date and serving a population of a
specified size, the governing body of the county submit the
question of the district's retention or dissolution to the
electorate in a specified general election; amending s. 409.996,
F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and Families, in
collaboration with certain entities, to develop a statewide
quality accountability system for residential group care
providers; providing requirements for the system; requiring the
department to submit a report to the Governor and the
Legislature by a specified date and annually thereafter;
providing requirements for the report; requiring the system to
be implemented by a specified date; authorizing rulemaking to
implement; requiring the Department of Children and Families, in
collaboration with certain entities, to convene a workgroup;
providing requirements for the workgroup; requiring the
department to submit a report to the Governor and the
Legislature by a specified date; providing requirements for the
report;