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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Committee on Appropriations (Flores) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Effective January 1, 2019, section 39.4015,  
Florida Statutes, is created to read:

39.4015 Family finding.—

(1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

(a) The Legislature finds that every child who is in out-  
of-home care has the goal of finding a permanent home, whether



371160

11 achieved by reunifying the child with his or her parents or  
12 finding another permanent connection, such as adoption or legal  
13 guardianship with a relative or nonrelative who has a  
14 significant relationship with the child.

15 (b) The Legislature finds that while legal permanency is  
16 important to a child in out-of-home care, emotional permanency  
17 helps increase the likelihood that children will achieve  
18 stability and well-being and successfully transition to  
19 independent adulthood.

20 (c) The Legislature also finds that research has  
21 consistently shown that placing a child within his or her own  
22 family reduces the trauma of being removed from his or her home,  
23 is less likely to result in placement disruptions, and enhances  
24 prospects for finding a permanent family if the child cannot  
25 return home.

26 (d) The Legislature further finds that the primary purpose  
27 of family finding is to facilitate legal and emotional  
28 permanency for children who are in out-of-home care by finding  
29 and engaging their relatives.

30 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that every child in  
31 out-of-home care be afforded the advantages that can be gained  
32 from the use of family finding to establish caring and long-term  
33 or permanent connections and relationships for children and  
34 youth in out-of-home care, as well as to establish a long-term  
35 emotional support network with family members and other adults  
36 who may not be able to take the child into their home but who  
37 want to stay connected with the child.

38 (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

39 (a) "Diligent efforts" means the use of methods and



371160

40 techniques including, but not limited to, interviews with  
41 immediate and extended family and kin, genograms, eco-mapping,  
42 case mining, cold calls, and specialized computer searches.

43 (b) "Family finding" means an intensive relative search and  
44 engagement technique used in identifying family and other close  
45 adults for children in out-of-home care and involving them in  
46 developing and carrying out a plan for the emotional and legal  
47 permanency of a child.

48 (c) "Family group decisionmaking" is a generic term that  
49 includes a number of approaches in which family members and  
50 fictive kin are brought together to make decisions about how to  
51 care for their children and develop a plan for services. The  
52 term includes family team conferencing, family team meetings,  
53 family group conferencing, family team decisionmaking, family  
54 unity meetings, and team decisionmaking, which may consist of  
55 several phases and employ a trained facilitator or coordinator.

56 (d) "Fictive kin" means an individual who is unrelated to  
57 the child by either birth or marriage, but has such a close  
58 emotional relationship with the child that he or she may be  
59 considered part of the family.

60 (3) FAMILY-FINDING PROGRAM.—The department, in  
61 collaboration with sheriffs' offices that conduct child  
62 protective investigations and community-based care lead  
63 agencies, shall develop a formal family-finding program to be  
64 implemented statewide by child protective investigators and  
65 community-based care lead agencies. Implementation of the  
66 program is contingent upon the appropriation of funds by the  
67 Legislature specifically for the program.

68 (a) Family finding is required as soon as a child comes to



371160

69 the attention of the department and throughout the duration of  
70 the case, and finding and engaging with as many family members  
71 and fictive kin as possible for each child who may help with  
72 care or support for the child is considered a best practice. The  
73 department or community-based care lead agency must specifically  
74 document strategies taken to locate and engage relatives and  
75 kin. Strategies of engagement may include, but are not limited  
76 to, asking the relatives and kin to:

77 1. Participate in a family group decisionmaking conference,  
78 family team conferencing, or other family meetings aimed at  
79 developing or supporting the family service plan;

80 2. Attend visitations with the child;

81 3. Assist in transportation of the child;

82 4. Provide respite or child care services; or

83 5. Provide actual kinship care.

84 (b) The department and the community-based care lead  
85 agencies must use diligent efforts in family finding, must  
86 continue those efforts until multiple relatives and kin are  
87 identified, and must go beyond basic searching tools by  
88 exploring alternative tools and methodologies. Efforts by the  
89 department and the community-based care lead agency may include,  
90 but are not limited to:

91 1. Searching for and locating adult relatives and kin.

92 2. Identifying and building positive connections between  
93 the child and the child's relatives and fictive kin.

94 3. Supporting the engagement of relatives and fictive kin  
95 in social service planning and delivery of services and creating  
96 a network of extended family support to assist in remedying the  
97 concerns that led to the child becoming involved with the child



371160

98 welfare system, when appropriate.

99 4. Maintaining family connections, when possible.

100 5. Keeping siblings together in care, when in the best  
101 interest of each child and when possible.

102 (c) A basic computer search using the Internet or attempts  
103 to contact known relatives at a last known address or telephone  
104 number do not constitute effective family finding.

105 (d) The court's inquiry and determination regarding family  
106 finding should be made at each stage of the case, including a  
107 shelter hearing conducted pursuant to s. 39.402. The court shall  
108 place its determinations on the record as to whether the  
109 department or community-based care lead agency has reasonably  
110 engaged in family finding. The level of reasonableness is to be  
111 determined by the length of the case and the amount of time the  
112 department or community-based care lead agency has had to begin  
113 or continue the process.

114 (4) RULEMAKING.—The department shall adopt rules to  
115 implement this section.

116 Section 2. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (11) of  
117 section 39.402, Florida Statutes, and subsection (17) of that  
118 section are amended to read:

119 39.402 Placement in a shelter.—

120 (11)

121 (c) The court shall request that the parents consent to  
122 provide access to the child's child care records, early  
123 education program records, or other educational records and  
124 provide information to the court, the department or its contract  
125 agencies, and any guardian ad litem or attorney for the child.  
126 If a parent is unavailable or unable to consent or withholds



371160

127 consent and the court determines access to the records and  
128 information is necessary to provide services to the child, the  
129 court shall issue an order granting access.

130 (d) The court may appoint a surrogate parent or may refer  
131 the child to the district school superintendent for appointment  
132 of a surrogate parent if the child has or is suspected of having  
133 a disability and the parent is unavailable pursuant to s.  
134 39.0016(3)(b). If the child is under the age of school entry,  
135 the court must make the appointment.

136 (17) At the shelter hearing, the court shall inquire of the  
137 parent whether the parent has relatives who might be considered  
138 as a placement for the child. The parent shall provide to the  
139 court and all parties identification and location information  
140 regarding the relatives. The court shall advise the parent that  
141 the parent has a continuing duty to inform the department of any  
142 relative who should be considered for placement of the child.  
143 Upon implementation of the program authorized under s. 39.4015,  
144 the court shall place its determinations on the record as to  
145 whether the department or community-based care lead agency has  
146 reasonably engaged in family finding. The level of  
147 reasonableness is to be determined by the length of the case and  
148 amount of time the department or community-based care lead  
149 agency has had to begin or continue the process.

150 Section 3. Present subsection (9) of section 39.506,  
151 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (10), and a new  
152 subsection (9) is added to that section, to read:

153 39.506 Arraignment hearings.—

154 (9) Upon implementation of the program authorized under s.  
155 39.4015, the court shall review whether the department or



371160

156 community-based care lead agency has reasonably engaged in  
157 family finding and make a written determination as to its  
158 findings. The level of reasonableness is determined by the  
159 length of the case and amount of time the department or  
160 community-based care lead agency has had to begin or continue  
161 the process.

162 Section 4. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subsection (7) of  
163 section 39.507, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

164 39.507 Adjudicatory hearings; orders of adjudication.—  
165 (7)

166 (c) If a court adjudicates a child dependent and the child  
167 is in out-of-home care, the court shall inquire of the parent or  
168 parents whether the parents have relatives who might be  
169 considered as a placement for the child. ~~The court shall advise~~  
170 ~~the parents that, if the parents fail to substantially comply~~  
171 ~~with the case plan, their parental rights may be terminated and~~  
172 ~~that the child's out-of-home placement may become permanent.~~ The  
173 parent or parents shall provide to the court and all parties  
174 identification and location information of the relatives. Upon  
175 implementation of the program authorized under s. 39.4015, the  
176 court shall review whether the department or community-based  
177 care lead agency has reasonably engaged in family finding and  
178 make a written determination as to its findings. The level of  
179 reasonableness is determined by the length of the case and  
180 amount of time the department or community-based care lead  
181 agency has had to begin or continue the process.

182 (d) The court shall advise the parents that, if they fail  
183 to substantially comply with the case plan, their parental  
184 rights may be terminated and that the child's out-of-home



371160

185 placement may become permanent.

186 Section 5. Effective January 1, 2019, section 39.5085,  
187 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

188 39.5085 Kinship Care ~~Relative Caregiver~~ Program.-

189 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.-

190 (a) The Legislature finds that an increasing number of  
191 relatives and fictive kin are assuming the responsibility of  
192 raising children because the parents of these children are  
193 unable to care for them.

194 (b) The Legislature also finds that these kinship  
195 caregivers perform a vital function by providing homes for  
196 children who would otherwise be at risk of foster care placement  
197 and that kinship care is a crucial option in the spectrum of  
198 out-of-home care available to children in need.

199 (c) The Legislature finds that children living with kinship  
200 caregivers experience increased placement stability, are less  
201 likely to reenter care if they are reunified with their parents,  
202 and have better behavioral and mental health outcomes.

203 (d) The Legislature further finds that these kinship  
204 caregivers may face a number of difficulties and need assistance  
205 to support the health and well-being of the children they care  
206 for. These needs include, but are not limited to, financial  
207 assistance, legal assistance, respite care, child care,  
208 specialized training, and counseling.

209 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide for the  
210 establishment and implementation of procedures and protocols  
211 that are likely to increase and adequately support appropriate  
212 and safe kinship care placements.

213 (2) DEFINITIONS.-As used this section, the term:





371160

214 (a) "Fictive kin" means an individual who is unrelated to  
215 the child by either birth or marriage, but has such a close  
216 emotional relationship with the child that he or she may be  
217 considered part of the family.

218 (b) "Kinship care" means the full-time care of a child  
219 placed in out-of-home care by the court in the home of a  
220 relative or fictive kin.

221 (c) "Kinship navigator program" means a statewide program  
222 designed to ensure that kinship caregivers are provided with  
223 necessary resources for the preservation of the family.

224 (d) "Relative" means an individual who is caring full time  
225 for a child placed in out-of-home care by the court and who:

226 1. Is related to the child within the fifth degree by blood  
227 or marriage to the parent or stepparent of the child; or

228 2. Is related to a half-sibling of that child within the  
229 fifth degree by blood or marriage to the parent or stepparent.

230 (3) ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES.-

231 (a) The purpose of a kinship navigator program is to help  
232 relative caregivers and fictive kin in the child welfare system  
233 to navigate the broad range of services available to them and  
234 the children from public, private, community, and faith-based  
235 organizations.

236 (b) Effective January 1, 2019, and contingent upon an  
237 appropriation of funds by the Legislature, each community-based  
238 care lead agency shall establish a kinship navigator program. In  
239 order to meet the requirements of a kinship navigator program,  
240 the program must:

241 1. Be coordinated with other state or local agencies that  
242 promote service coordination or provide information and referral



371160

243 services, including any entities that participate in the Florida  
244 211 Network, to avoid duplication or fragmentation of services  
245 to kinship care families;

246 2. Be planned and operated in consultation with kinship  
247 caregivers and organizations representing them, youth raised by  
248 kinship caregivers, relevant governmental agencies, and relevant  
249 community-based or faith-based organizations;

250 3. Establish a toll-free telephone hotline to provide  
251 information to link kinship caregivers, kinship support group  
252 facilitators, and kinship service providers to:

253 a. One another;

254 b. Eligibility and enrollment information for federal,  
255 state, and local benefits;

256 c. Relevant training to assist kinship caregivers in  
257 caregiving and in obtaining benefits and services; and

258 d. Relevant knowledge related to legal options available  
259 for child custody, other legal assistance, and help in obtaining  
260 legal services.

261 4. Provide outreach to kinship care families, including by  
262 establishing, distributing, and updating a kinship care website,  
263 or other relevant guides or outreach materials; and

264 5. Promote partnerships between public and private  
265 agencies, including schools, community-based or faith-based  
266 organizations, and relevant governmental agencies, to increase  
267 their knowledge of the needs of kinship care families to promote  
268 better services for those families.

269 (4) RULEMAKING.—The department shall adopt rules to  
270 implement this section.

271 ~~(1) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this~~



371160

272 ~~section to:~~

273 ~~(a) Provide for the establishment of procedures and~~  
274 ~~protocols that serve to advance the continued safety of children~~  
275 ~~by acknowledging the valued resource uniquely available through~~  
276 ~~grandparents, relatives of children, and specified nonrelatives~~  
277 ~~of children pursuant to subparagraph (2) (a)3.~~

278 ~~(b) Recognize family relationships in which a grandparent~~  
279 ~~or other relative is the head of a household that includes a~~  
280 ~~child otherwise at risk of foster care placement.~~

281 ~~(c) Enhance family preservation and stability by~~  
282 ~~recognizing that most children in such placements with~~  
283 ~~grandparents and other relatives do not need intensive~~  
284 ~~supervision of the placement by the courts or by the department.~~

285 ~~(d) Recognize that permanency in the best interests of the~~  
286 ~~child can be achieved through a variety of permanency options,~~  
287 ~~including permanent guardianship under s. 39.6221 if the~~  
288 ~~guardian is a relative, by permanent placement with a fit and~~  
289 ~~willing relative under s. 39.6231, by a relative, guardianship~~  
290 ~~under chapter 744, or adoption, by providing additional~~  
291 ~~placement options and incentives that will achieve permanency~~  
292 ~~and stability for many children who are otherwise at risk of~~  
293 ~~foster care placement because of abuse, abandonment, or neglect,~~  
294 ~~but who may successfully be able to be placed by the dependency~~  
295 ~~court in the care of such relatives.~~

296 ~~(e) Reserve the limited casework and supervisory resources~~  
297 ~~of the courts and the department for those cases in which~~  
298 ~~children do not have the option for safe, stable care within the~~  
299 ~~family.~~

300 ~~(f) Recognize that a child may have a close relationship~~



371160

301 ~~with a person who is not a blood relative or a relative by~~  
302 ~~marriage and that such person should be eligible for financial~~  
303 ~~assistance under this section if he or she is able and willing~~  
304 ~~to care for the child and provide a safe, stable home~~  
305 ~~environment.~~

306 ~~(2) (a) The Department of Children and Families shall~~  
307 ~~establish, operate, and implement the Relative Caregiver Program~~  
308 ~~by rule of the department. The Relative Caregiver Program shall,~~  
309 ~~within the limits of available funding, provide financial~~  
310 ~~assistance to:~~

311 ~~1. Relatives who are within the fifth degree by blood or~~  
312 ~~marriage to the parent or stepparent of a child and who are~~  
313 ~~earing full-time for that dependent child in the role of~~  
314 ~~substitute parent as a result of a court's determination of~~  
315 ~~child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and subsequent placement~~  
316 ~~with the relative under this chapter.~~

317 ~~2. Relatives who are within the fifth degree by blood or~~  
318 ~~marriage to the parent or stepparent of a child and who are~~  
319 ~~earing full-time for that dependent child, and a dependent half-~~  
320 ~~brother or half-sister of that dependent child, in the role of~~  
321 ~~substitute parent as a result of a court's determination of~~  
322 ~~child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and subsequent placement~~  
323 ~~with the relative under this chapter.~~

324 ~~3. Nonrelatives who are willing to assume custody and care~~  
325 ~~of a dependent child in the role of substitute parent as a~~  
326 ~~result of a court's determination of child abuse, neglect, or~~  
327 ~~abandonment and subsequent placement with the nonrelative~~  
328 ~~caregiver under this chapter. The court must find that a~~  
329 ~~proposed placement under this subparagraph is in the best~~



371160

330 ~~interest of the child.~~

331 ~~4. A relative or nonrelative caregiver, but the relative or~~  
332 ~~nonrelative caregiver may not receive a Relative Caregiver~~  
333 ~~Program payment if the parent or stepparent of the child resides~~  
334 ~~in the home. However, a relative or nonrelative may receive the~~  
335 ~~Relative Caregiver Program payment for a minor parent who is in~~  
336 ~~his or her care, as well as for the minor parent's child, if~~  
337 ~~both children have been adjudicated dependent and meet all other~~  
338 ~~eligibility requirements. If the caregiver is currently~~  
339 ~~receiving the payment, the Relative Caregiver Program payment~~  
340 ~~must be terminated no later than the first of the following~~  
341 ~~month after the parent or stepparent moves into the home,~~  
342 ~~allowing for 10-day notice of adverse action.~~

343  
344 ~~The placement may be court-ordered temporary legal custody to~~  
345 ~~the relative or nonrelative under protective supervision of the~~  
346 ~~department pursuant to s. 39.521(1)(c)3., or court-ordered~~  
347 ~~placement in the home of a relative or nonrelative as a~~  
348 ~~permanency option under s. 39.6221 or s. 39.6231 or under former~~  
349 ~~s. 39.622 if the placement was made before July 1, 2006. The~~  
350 ~~Relative Caregiver Program shall offer financial assistance to~~  
351 ~~caregivers who would be unable to serve in that capacity without~~  
352 ~~the caregiver payment because of financial burden, thus exposing~~  
353 ~~the child to the trauma of placement in a shelter or in foster~~  
354 ~~care.~~

355 ~~(b) Caregivers who receive assistance under this section~~  
356 ~~must be capable, as determined by a home study, of providing a~~  
357 ~~physically safe environment and a stable, supportive home for~~  
358 ~~the children under their care and must assure that the~~



371160

359 ~~children's well-being is met, including, but not limited to, the~~  
360 ~~provision of immunizations, education, and mental health~~  
361 ~~services as needed.~~

362 ~~(c) Relatives or nonrelatives who qualify for and~~  
363 ~~participate in the Relative Caregiver Program are not required~~  
364 ~~to meet foster care licensing requirements under s. 409.175.~~

365 ~~(d) Relatives or nonrelatives who are caring for children~~  
366 ~~placed with them by the court pursuant to this chapter shall~~  
367 ~~receive a special monthly caregiver benefit established by rule~~  
368 ~~of the department. The amount of the special benefit payment~~  
369 ~~shall be based on the child's age within a payment schedule~~  
370 ~~established by rule of the department and subject to~~  
371 ~~availability of funding. The statewide average monthly rate for~~  
372 ~~children judicially placed with relatives or nonrelatives who~~  
373 ~~are not licensed as foster homes may not exceed 82 percent of~~  
374 ~~the statewide average foster care rate, and the cost of~~  
375 ~~providing the assistance described in this section to any~~  
376 ~~caregiver may not exceed the cost of providing out-of-home care~~  
377 ~~in emergency shelter or foster care.~~

378 ~~(e) Children receiving cash benefits under this section are~~  
379 ~~not eligible to simultaneously receive WAGES cash benefits under~~  
380 ~~chapter 414.~~

381 ~~(f) Within available funding, the Relative Caregiver~~  
382 ~~Program shall provide caregivers with family support and~~  
383 ~~preservation services, flexible funds in accordance with s.~~  
384 ~~409.165, school readiness, and other available services in order~~  
385 ~~to support the child's safety, growth, and healthy development.~~  
386 ~~Children living with caregivers who are receiving assistance~~  
387 ~~under this section shall be eligible for Medicaid coverage.~~



371160

388       ~~(g) The department may use appropriate available state,~~  
389 ~~federal, and private funds to operate the Relative Caregiver~~  
390 ~~Program. The department may develop liaison functions to be~~  
391 ~~available to relatives or nonrelatives who care for children~~  
392 ~~pursuant to this chapter to ensure placement stability in~~  
393 ~~extended family settings.~~

394       Section 6. Paragraph (e) of subsection (1) of section  
395 39.521, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

396       39.521 Disposition hearings; powers of disposition.—

397       (1) A disposition hearing shall be conducted by the court,  
398 if the court finds that the facts alleged in the petition for  
399 dependency were proven in the adjudicatory hearing, or if the  
400 parents or legal custodians have consented to the finding of  
401 dependency or admitted the allegations in the petition, have  
402 failed to appear for the arraignment hearing after proper  
403 notice, or have not been located despite a diligent search  
404 having been conducted.

405       (e) The court shall, in its written order of disposition,  
406 include all of the following:

- 407       1. The placement or custody of the child.
- 408       2. Special conditions of placement and visitation.
- 409       3. Evaluation, counseling, treatment activities, and other  
410 actions to be taken by the parties, if ordered.
- 411       4. The persons or entities responsible for supervising or  
412 monitoring services to the child and parent.
- 413       5. Continuation or discharge of the guardian ad litem, as  
414 appropriate.
- 415       6. The date, time, and location of the next scheduled  
416 review hearing, which must occur within the earlier of:



371160

- 417           a. Ninety days after the disposition hearing;  
418           b. Ninety days after the court accepts the case plan;  
419           c. Six months after the date of the last review hearing; or  
420           d. Six months after the date of the child's removal from  
421 his or her home, if no review hearing has been held since the  
422 child's removal from the home.

423           7. If the child is in an out-of-home placement, child  
424 support to be paid by the parents, or the guardian of the  
425 child's estate if possessed of assets which under law may be  
426 disbursed for the care, support, and maintenance of the child.  
427 The court may exercise jurisdiction over all child support  
428 matters, shall adjudicate the financial obligation, including  
429 health insurance, of the child's parents or guardian, and shall  
430 enforce the financial obligation as provided in chapter 61. The  
431 state's child support enforcement agency shall enforce child  
432 support orders under this section in the same manner as child  
433 support orders under chapter 61. Placement of the child shall  
434 not be contingent upon issuance of a support order.

435           8.a. If the court does not commit the child to the  
436 temporary legal custody of an adult relative, legal custodian,  
437 or other adult approved by the court, the disposition order must  
438 ~~shall~~ include the reasons for such a decision and, upon  
439 implementation of the program authorized under s. 39.4015, shall  
440 include a written determination as to whether diligent efforts  
441 were made by the department and the community-based care lead  
442 agency reasonably engaged in family finding in attempting to  
443 locate an adult relative, legal custodian, or other adult  
444 willing to care for the child in order to present that placement  
445 option to the court instead of placement with the department.





371160

446 The level of reasonableness is determined by the length of the  
447 case and amount of time the department or community-based care  
448 lead agency has had to begin or continue the process.

449       b. If no suitable relative is found and the child is placed  
450 with the department or a legal custodian or other adult approved  
451 by the court, both the department and the court shall consider  
452 transferring temporary legal custody to an adult relative  
453 approved by the court at a later date, but neither the  
454 department nor the court is obligated to so place the child if  
455 it is in the child's best interest to remain in the current  
456 placement.

457  
458 ~~For the purposes of this section, "diligent efforts to locate an~~  
459 ~~adult relative" means a search similar to the diligent search~~  
460 ~~for a parent, but without the continuing obligation to search~~  
461 ~~after an initial adequate search is completed.~~

462       9. Other requirements necessary to protect the health,  
463 safety, and well-being of the child, to preserve the stability  
464 of the child's child care, early education program, or any other  
465 educational placement, and to promote family preservation or  
466 reunification whenever possible.

467       Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) and paragraph  
468 (a) of subsection (3) of section 39.6012, Florida Statutes, are  
469 amended to read:

470       39.6012 Case plan tasks; services.—

471       (2) The case plan must include all available information  
472 that is relevant to the child's care including, at a minimum:

473       (b) A description of the plan for ensuring that the child  
474 receives safe and proper care and that services are provided to



371160

475 the child in order to address the child's needs. To the extent  
476 available and accessible, the following health, mental health,  
477 and education information and records of the child must be  
478 attached to the case plan and updated throughout the judicial  
479 review process:

480 1. The names and addresses of the child's health, mental  
481 health, and educational providers;

482 2. The child's grade level performance;

483 3. The child's school record or, if the child is under the  
484 age of school entry, any records from a child care program,  
485 early education program, or preschool program;

486 4. Documentation of compliance or noncompliance with the  
487 attendance requirements under s. 39.604, if the child is  
488 enrolled in a child care program, early education program, or  
489 preschool program;

490 ~~5.4.~~ Assurances that the child's placement takes into  
491 account proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled  
492 at the time of placement;

493 ~~6. 5. A record of~~ The child's immunizations;

494 ~~7.6.~~ The child's known medical history, including any known  
495 health problems;

496 ~~8.7.~~ The child's medications, if any; and

497 ~~9.8.~~ Any other relevant health, mental health, and  
498 education information concerning the child.

499 (3) In addition to any other requirement, if the child is  
500 in an out-of-home placement, the case plan must include:

501 (a) A description of the type of placement in which the  
502 child is to be living and, if the child has been placed with the  
503 department and the program as authorized under s. 39.4015 has



371160

504 been implemented, whether the department and the community-based  
505 care lead agency have reasonably engaged in family finding to  
506 locate an adult relative, legal custodian, or other adult  
507 willing to care for the child in order to present that placement  
508 option to the court instead of placement with the department.

509 Section 8. Section 39.604, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
510 read:

511 39.604 Rilya Wilson Act; short title; legislative intent;  
512 requirements; attendance; stability and transitions ~~reporting~~  
513 ~~responsibilities.~~-

514 (1) SHORT TITLE.-This section may be cited as the "Rilya  
515 Wilson Act."

516 (2) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.-

517 (a) The Legislature finds that children from birth to age 5  
518 years are particularly vulnerable to maltreatment and that they  
519 enter out-of-home care in disproportionately high numbers.

520 (b) The Legislature also finds that children who are abused  
521 or neglected are at high risk of experiencing physical and  
522 mental health problems and problems with language and  
523 communication, cognitive development, and social and emotional  
524 development.

525 (c) The Legislature also finds that providing early  
526 intervention and services, as well as quality child care and  
527 early education programs to support the healthy development of  
528 these young children, can have positive effects that last  
529 throughout childhood and into adulthood.

530 (d) The Legislature also finds that the needs of each of  
531 these children are unique, and while some children may be best  
532 served by a quality child care or early education program,



371160

533 others may need more attention and nurturing that can best be  
534 provided by a stay-at-home caregiver ~~The Legislature recognizes~~  
535 ~~that children who are in the care of the state due to abuse,~~  
536 ~~neglect, or abandonment are at increased risk of poor school~~  
537 ~~performance and other behavioral and social problems.~~

538 (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that children who  
539 are ~~currently~~ in out-of-home ~~the care of the state~~ be provided  
540 with an age-appropriate developmental child care or early  
541 education arrangement that is in the best interest of the child  
542 ~~education program~~ to help ameliorate the negative consequences  
543 of abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

544 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—

545 1. A child from birth to the age of school entry, who is  
546 under court-ordered protective supervision or in out-of-home  
547 care and is ~~the custody of the Family Safety Program Office of~~  
548 ~~the Department of Children and Families or a community-based~~  
549 ~~lead agency,~~ and enrolled in an a licensed early education or  
550 child care program must attend the program 5 days a week unless  
551 the court grants an exception due to the court determining it is  
552 in the best interest of a child from birth to age 3 years:

553 a. With a stay-at-home caregiver to remain at home.

554 b. With a caregiver who works less than full time to attend  
555 an early education or child care program fewer than 5 days a  
556 week.

557 2. Notwithstanding s. 39.202, the department ~~of Children~~  
558 ~~and Families~~ must notify operators of an ~~the licensed~~ early  
559 education or child care program, subject to the reporting  
560 requirements of this act, of the enrollment of any child from  
561 birth to the age of school entry, under court-ordered protective



371160

562 supervision or in out-of-home care. ~~If the custody of the Family~~  
563 ~~Safety Program Office of the Department of Children and Families~~  
564 ~~or a community-based lead agency.~~ When a child is enrolled in an  
565 early education or child care program ~~regulated by the~~  
566 ~~department~~, the child's attendance in the program must be a  
567 required task action ~~in~~ in the safety plan or the case plan  
568 developed for the child pursuant to this chapter. ~~An exemption~~  
569 ~~to participating in the licensed early education or child care~~  
570 ~~program 5 days a week may be granted by the court.~~

571 (4) ATTENDANCE AND ~~REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.~~-

572 1.(a) A child enrolled in an ~~a licensed~~ early education or  
573 child care program who meets the requirements of paragraph (b)  
574 ~~subsection (3)~~ may not be withdrawn from the program without the  
575 prior written approval of the department ~~Family Safety Program~~  
576 ~~Office of the Department of Children and Families~~ or the  
577 community-based care lead agency.

578 2.a.(b)1. If a child covered by this section is absent from  
579 the program on a day when he or she is supposed to be present,  
580 the person with whom the child resides must report the absence  
581 to the program by the end of the business day. If the person  
582 with whom the child resides, whether the parent or caregiver,  
583 fails to timely report the absence, the absence is considered to  
584 be unexcused. The program shall report any unexcused absence or  
585 seven consecutive excused absences of a child who is enrolled in  
586 the program and covered by this act to the ~~local designated~~  
587 ~~staff of the Family Safety Program Office of the department of~~  
588 ~~Children and Families~~ or the community-based care lead agency by  
589 the end of the business day following the unexcused absence or  
590 seventh consecutive excused absence.



371160

591           ~~b.2.~~ The department or community-based care lead agency  
592 shall conduct a site visit to the residence of the child upon  
593 receiving a report of two consecutive unexcused absences or  
594 seven consecutive excused absences.

595           ~~c.3.~~ If the site visit results in a determination that the  
596 child is missing, the department or community-based care lead  
597 agency shall follow the procedure set forth in s. 39.0141 ~~report~~  
598 ~~the child as missing to a law enforcement agency and proceed~~  
599 ~~with the necessary actions to locate the child pursuant to~~  
600 ~~procedures for locating missing children.~~

601           ~~d.4.~~ If the site visit results in a determination that the  
602 child is not missing, the parent or caregiver shall be notified  
603 that failure to ensure that the child attends the ~~licensed~~ early  
604 education or child care program is a violation of the safety  
605 plan or the case plan. If more than two site visits are  
606 conducted pursuant to this subsection, staff shall ~~initiate~~  
607 ~~action to~~ notify the court of the parent or caregiver's  
608 noncompliance with the case plan.

609           (5) EDUCATIONAL STABILITY.—Just as educational stability is  
610 important for school-age children, it is also important to  
611 minimize disruptions to secure attachments and stable  
612 relationships with supportive caregivers of children from birth  
613 to school age and to ensure that these attachments are not  
614 disrupted due to placement in out-of-home care or subsequent  
615 changes in out-of-home placement.

616           (a) A child must be allowed to remain in the child care or  
617 early educational setting that he or she attended before entry  
618 into out-of-home care, unless the program is not in the best  
619 interest of the child.



371160

620 (b) If it is not in the best interest of the child for him  
621 or her to remain in his or her child care or early education  
622 setting upon entry into out-of-home care, the caregiver must  
623 work with the case manager, guardian ad litem, child care and  
624 educational staff, and educational surrogate, if one has been  
625 appointed, to determine the best setting for the child. Such  
626 setting may be a child care provider that receives a Gold Seal  
627 Quality Care designation pursuant to s. 402.281, a provider  
628 participating in a quality rating system, a licensed child care  
629 provider, a public school provider, or a license-exempt child  
630 care provider, including religious-exempt and registered  
631 providers, and non-public schools.

632 (c) The department and providers of early care and  
633 education shall develop protocols to ensure continuity if  
634 children are required to leave a program because of a change in  
635 out-of-home placement.

636 (6) TRANSITIONS.—In the absence of an emergency, if a child  
637 from birth to school age leaves a child care or early education  
638 program, the transition must be pursuant to a plan that involves  
639 cooperation and sharing of information among all persons  
640 involved, that respects the child’s developmental stage and  
641 associated psychological needs, and that allows for a gradual  
642 transition from one setting to another.

643 Section 9. Paragraph (b) of subsection (6) and subsection  
644 (7) of section 39.6251, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:  
645 39.6251 Continuing care for young adults.—

646 (6) A young adult who is between the ages of 18 and 21 and  
647 who has left care may return to care by applying to the  
648 community-based care lead agency for readmission. The community-



371160

649 based care lead agency shall readmit the young adult if he or  
650 she continues to meet the eligibility requirements in this  
651 section.

652 (b) Within 30 days after the young adult has been  
653 readmitted to care, the community-based care lead agency shall  
654 assign a case manager to update the case plan and the transition  
655 plan and to arrange for the required services. Updates to the  
656 case plan and the transition plan and arrangements for the  
657 required services ~~Such activities~~ shall be undertaken in  
658 consultation with the young adult. The department shall petition  
659 the court to reinstate jurisdiction over the young adult.

660 Notwithstanding s. 39.013(2), the court shall resume  
661 jurisdiction over the young adult if the department establishes  
662 that he or she continues to meet the eligibility requirements in  
663 this section.

664 (7) During each period of time that a young adult is in  
665 care, the community-based lead agency shall provide regular case  
666 management reviews that must include at least monthly contact  
667 with the case manager. ~~If a young adult lives outside the~~  
668 ~~service area of his or her community-based care lead agency,~~  
669 ~~monthly contact may occur by telephone.~~

670 Section 10. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
671 39.701, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

672 39.701 Judicial review.—

673 (2) REVIEW HEARINGS FOR CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 18 YEARS OF  
674 AGE.—

675 (c) *Review determinations.*—The court and any citizen review  
676 panel shall take into consideration the information contained in  
677 the social services study and investigation and all medical,





371160

678 psychological, and educational records that support the terms of  
679 the case plan; testimony by the social services agency, the  
680 parent, the foster parent or legal custodian, the guardian ad  
681 litem or surrogate parent for educational decisionmaking if one  
682 has been appointed for the child, and any other person deemed  
683 appropriate; and any relevant and material evidence submitted to  
684 the court, including written and oral reports to the extent of  
685 their probative value. These reports and evidence may be  
686 received by the court in its effort to determine the action to  
687 be taken with regard to the child and may be relied upon to the  
688 extent of their probative value, even though not competent in an  
689 adjudicatory hearing. In its deliberations, the court and any  
690 citizen review panel shall seek to determine:

691 1. If the parent was advised of the right to receive  
692 assistance from any person or social service agency in the  
693 preparation of the case plan.

694 2. If the parent has been advised of the right to have  
695 counsel present at the judicial review or citizen review  
696 hearings. If not so advised, the court or citizen review panel  
697 shall advise the parent of such right.

698 3. If a guardian ad litem needs to be appointed for the  
699 child in a case in which a guardian ad litem has not previously  
700 been appointed or if there is a need to continue a guardian ad  
701 litem in a case in which a guardian ad litem has been appointed.

702 4. Who holds the rights to make educational decisions for  
703 the child. If appropriate, the court may refer the child to the  
704 district school superintendent for appointment of a surrogate  
705 parent or may itself appoint a surrogate parent under the  
706 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and s. 39.0016. If



371160

707 the child is under the age of school entry, the court must make  
708 the appointment.

709         5. The compliance or lack of compliance of all parties with  
710 applicable items of the case plan, including the parents'  
711 compliance with child support orders.

712         6. The compliance or lack of compliance with a visitation  
713 contract between the parent and the social service agency for  
714 contact with the child, including the frequency, duration, and  
715 results of the parent-child visitation and the reason for any  
716 noncompliance.

717         7. The frequency, kind, and duration of contacts among  
718 siblings who have been separated during placement, as well as  
719 any efforts undertaken to reunite separated siblings if doing so  
720 is in the best interest of the child.

721         8. The compliance or lack of compliance of the parent in  
722 meeting specified financial obligations pertaining to the care  
723 of the child, including the reason for failure to comply, if  
724 applicable.

725         9. Whether the child is receiving safe and proper care  
726 according to s. 39.6012, including, but not limited to, the  
727 appropriateness of the child's current placement, including  
728 whether the child is in a setting that is as family-like and as  
729 close to the parent's home as possible, consistent with the  
730 child's best interests and special needs, and including  
731 maintaining stability in the child's educational placement, as  
732 documented by assurances from the community-based care provider  
733 that:

734             a. The placement of the child takes into account the  
735 appropriateness of the current educational setting and the



371160

736 proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the  
737 time of placement.

738 b. The community-based care agency has coordinated with  
739 appropriate local educational agencies to ensure that the child  
740 remains in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time  
741 of placement.

742 10. Upon implementation of the program authorized under s.  
743 39.4015, whether the department or community-based care lead  
744 agency continues to reasonably engage in family finding. The  
745 level of reasonableness is determined by the length of the case  
746 and amount of time the department or community-based care lead  
747 agency has had to continue the process.

748 11. ~~10.~~ A projected date likely for the child's return home  
749 or other permanent placement.

750 12. ~~11.~~ When appropriate, the basis for the unwillingness  
751 or inability of the parent to become a party to a case plan. The  
752 court and the citizen review panel shall determine if the  
753 efforts of the social service agency to secure party  
754 participation in a case plan were sufficient.

755 13. ~~12.~~ For a child who has reached 13 years of age but is  
756 not yet 18 years of age, the adequacy of the child's preparation  
757 for adulthood and independent living. For a child who is 15  
758 years of age or older, the court shall determine if appropriate  
759 steps are being taken for the child to obtain a driver license  
760 or learner's driver license.

761 14. ~~13.~~ If amendments to the case plan are required.  
762 Amendments to the case plan must be made as provided in ~~under~~ s.  
763 39.6013.

764 Section 11. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 409.166,



371160

765 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

766 409.166 Children within the child welfare system; adoption  
767 assistance program.—

768 (4) ADOPTION ASSISTANCE.—

769 (a) For purposes of administering payments under paragraph  
770 (d), the term:

771 1. "Child" means an individual who has not attained 21  
772 years of age.

773 2. "Young adult" means an individual who has attained 18  
774 years of age but who has not attained 21 years of age.

775 (b)~~(a)~~ A maintenance subsidy shall be granted only when all  
776 other resources available to a child have been thoroughly  
777 explored and it can be clearly established that this is the most  
778 acceptable plan for providing permanent placement for the child.  
779 The maintenance subsidy may not be used as a substitute for  
780 adoptive parent recruitment or as an inducement to adopt a child  
781 who might be placed without providing a subsidy. However, it  
782 shall be the policy of the department that no child be denied  
783 adoption if providing a maintenance subsidy would make adoption  
784 possible. The best interest of the child shall be the deciding  
785 factor in every case. This section does not prohibit foster  
786 parents from applying to adopt a child placed in their care.  
787 Foster parents or relative caregivers must be asked if they  
788 would adopt without a maintenance subsidy.

789 (c)~~(b)~~ The department shall provide adoption assistance to  
790 the adoptive parents, subject to specific appropriation, in the  
791 amount of \$5,000 annually, paid on a monthly basis, for the  
792 support and maintenance of a child until the 18th birthday of  
793 such child or in an amount other than \$5,000 annually as



371160

794 determined by the adoptive parents and the department and  
795 memorialized in a written agreement between the adoptive parents  
796 and the department. The agreement shall take into consideration  
797 the circumstances of the adoptive parents and the needs of the  
798 child being adopted. The amount of subsidy may be adjusted based  
799 upon changes in the needs of the child or circumstances of the  
800 adoptive parents. Changes may ~~shall~~ not be made without the  
801 concurrence of the adoptive parents. However, in no case shall  
802 the amount of the monthly payment exceed the foster care  
803 maintenance payment that would have been paid during the same  
804 period if the child had been in a foster family home.

805 (d) Contingent upon a specific appropriation, adoption  
806 assistance payments may be made for a child up to 21 years of  
807 age whose adoptive parent entered into an initial adoption  
808 assistance agreement after the child reached 16 years of age but  
809 before the child reached 18 years of age if the child is:

810 1. Completing secondary education or a program leading to  
811 an equivalent credential;

812 2. Enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary  
813 or vocational education;

814 3. Participating in a program or activity designed to  
815 promote or eliminate barriers to employment;

816 4. Employed for at least 80 hours per month; or

817 5. Unable to participate in programs or activities listed  
818 in subparagraphs 1.-4. full time due to a physical,  
819 intellectual, emotional, or psychiatric condition that limits  
820 participation. Any such barrier to participation must be  
821 supported by documentation in the child's case file or school or  
822 medical records.



371160

823           (e) A child or young adult receiving benefits through the  
824 adoption assistance program is not eligible to simultaneously  
825 receive relative caregiver benefits under s. 39.5085 or  
826 postsecondary education services and support under s. 409.1451.

827           (f)~~(e)~~ The department may provide adoption assistance to  
828 the adoptive parents, subject to specific appropriation, for  
829 medical assistance initiated after the adoption of the child for  
830 medical, surgical, hospital, and related services needed as a  
831 result of a physical or mental condition of the child which  
832 existed before the adoption and is not covered by Medicaid,  
833 Children's Medical Services, or Children's Mental Health  
834 Services. Such assistance may be initiated at any time but shall  
835 terminate on or before the child's 18th birthday.

836           (5) ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES.—

837           (a) As a condition of providing adoption assistance under  
838 this section and before the adoption is finalized, the adoptive  
839 parents must have an approved adoption home study and must enter  
840 into an adoption-assistance agreement with the department which  
841 specifies the financial assistance and other services to be  
842 provided.

843           (b) A child who is handicapped at the time of adoption is  
844 ~~shall be~~ eligible for services through the Children's Medical  
845 Services network established under part I of chapter 391 if the  
846 child was eligible for such services before ~~prior to~~ the  
847 adoption.

848           Section 12. Effective January 1, 2019, paragraph (b) of  
849 subsection (1) of section 414.045, Florida Statutes, is amended  
850 to read:

851           414.045 Cash assistance program.—Cash assistance families



371160

852 include any families receiving cash assistance payments from the  
853 state program for temporary assistance for needy families as  
854 defined in federal law, whether such funds are from federal  
855 funds, state funds, or commingled federal and state funds. Cash  
856 assistance families may also include families receiving cash  
857 assistance through a program defined as a separate state  
858 program.

859 (1) For reporting purposes, families receiving cash  
860 assistance shall be grouped into the following categories. The  
861 department may develop additional groupings in order to comply  
862 with federal reporting requirements, to comply with the data-  
863 reporting needs of the board of directors of CareerSource  
864 Florida, Inc., or to better inform the public of program  
865 progress.

866 (b) *Child-only cases.*—Child-only cases include cases that  
867 do not have an adult or teen head of household as defined in  
868 federal law. Such cases include:

869 1. Children in the care of caretaker relatives, if the  
870 caretaker relatives choose to have their needs excluded in the  
871 calculation of the amount of cash assistance.

872 2. Upon implementation of the Kinship Care Program  
873 established under s. 39.5085, families participating in that  
874 program in the Relative Caregiver program as provided in s.  
875 39.5085.

876 3. Families in which the only parent in a single-parent  
877 family or both parents in a two-parent family receive  
878 supplemental security income (SSI) benefits under Title XVI of  
879 the Social Security Act, as amended. To the extent permitted by  
880 federal law, individuals receiving SSI shall be excluded as



371160

881 household members in determining the amount of cash assistance,  
882 and such cases shall not be considered families containing an  
883 adult. Parents or caretaker relatives who are excluded from the  
884 cash assistance group due to receipt of SSI may choose to  
885 participate in work activities. An individual whose ability to  
886 participate in work activities is limited who volunteers to  
887 participate in work activities shall be assigned to work  
888 activities consistent with such limitations. An individual who  
889 volunteers to participate in a work activity may receive child  
890 care or support services consistent with such participation.

891 4. Families in which the only parent in a single-parent  
892 family or both parents in a two-parent family are not eligible  
893 for cash assistance due to immigration status or other  
894 limitation of federal law. To the extent required by federal  
895 law, such cases shall not be considered families containing an  
896 adult.

897 5. To the extent permitted by federal law and subject to  
898 appropriations, special needs children who have been adopted  
899 pursuant to s. 409.166 and whose adopting family qualifies as a  
900 needy family under the state program for temporary assistance  
901 for needy families. Notwithstanding any provision to the  
902 contrary in s. 414.075, s. 414.085, or s. 414.095, a family  
903 shall be considered a needy family if:

904 a. The family is determined by the department to have an  
905 income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level;

906 b. The family meets the requirements of s. 414.095(2) and  
907 (3) related to residence, citizenship, or eligible noncitizen  
908 status; and

909 c. The family provides any information that may be





371160

910 necessary to meet federal reporting requirements specified under  
911 Part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act.

912  
913 Families described in subparagraph 1., subparagraph 2., or  
914 subparagraph 3. may receive child care assistance or other  
915 supports or services so that the children may continue to be  
916 cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives. Such  
917 assistance or services may be funded from the temporary  
918 assistance for needy families block grant to the extent  
919 permitted under federal law and to the extent funds have been  
920 provided in the General Appropriations Act.

921 Section 13. Paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section  
922 1009.25, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

923 1009.25 Fee exemptions.—

924 (1) The following students are exempt from the payment of  
925 tuition and fees, including lab fees, at a school district that  
926 provides workforce education programs, Florida College System  
927 institution, or state university:

928 (d) A student who is or was at the time he or she reached  
929 18 years of age in the custody of a kinship caregiver ~~relative~~  
930 ~~or nonrelative~~ under s. 39.5085 or who was adopted from the  
931 Department of Children and Families after May 5, 1997. Such  
932 exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in applied  
933 academics for adult education instruction. The exemption remains  
934 valid until the student reaches 28 years of age.

935 Section 14. (1) Contingent upon a specific appropriation,  
936 effective August 1, 2018, the Department of Children and  
937 Families shall establish and operate a pilot Title IV-E  
938 Guardianship Assistance Program in two circuits in this state.



371160

939 The program will provide payments at a rate of \$333 per month  
940 for persons who meet the Title IV-E eligibility requirements as  
941 outlined in s. 473(d)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act.

942 (2) For purposes of administering this program, the term:

943 (a) "Child" means an individual who has not attained 21  
944 years of age.

945 (b) "Young adult" means an individual who has attained 18  
946 years of age but who has not attained 21 years of age.

947 (c) "Fictive kin" means a person unrelated by birth,  
948 marriage, or adoption who has an emotionally significant  
949 relationship, which possesses the characteristics of a family  
950 relationship, to a child.

951 (3) Caregivers enrolled in the Relative Caregiver or  
952 Nonrelative Caregiver Program prior to August 1, 2018, are not  
953 eligible to participate in the Title IV-E Guardianship  
954 Assistance Program pilot. Effective August 1, 2018, eligible  
955 caregivers enrolled in the pilot may not simultaneously have  
956 payments made on the child's behalf through the Relative  
957 Caregiver Program under s. 39.5085, postsecondary education  
958 services and supports under s. 409.1451, or child-only cash  
959 assistance under chapter 414.

960 (4) Notwithstanding s. 39.5085, in the two circuits where  
961 the Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance Program pilot is  
962 established, the Relative Caregiver Program will discontinue  
963 accepting applications effective July 31, 2018.

964 (5) Notwithstanding s. 409.145(4), in the two circuits  
965 where the Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance Program pilot is  
966 established, the room and board rate for guardians who are  
967 eligible for the program will be \$333 per month.



371160

968           (6) Notwithstanding s. 409.175(11)(a), in the two circuits  
969 where the Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance Program pilot is  
970 established, an exception of licensing standards may be provided  
971 for those standards where a waiver has been granted.

972           Section 15. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
973 act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

974  
975 ===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====

976 And the title is amended as follows:

977           Delete everything before the enacting clause  
978 and insert:

979                           A bill to be entitled  
980           An act relating to child welfare; creating s. 39.4015,  
981           F.S.; providing legislative findings and intent;  
982           defining terms; requiring the Department of Children  
983           and Families, in collaboration with sheriffs' offices  
984           that conduct child protective investigations and  
985           community-based care lead agencies, to develop a  
986           statewide family-finding program; specifying that  
987           implementation of the family-finding program is  
988           contingent upon the appropriation of funds by the  
989           Legislature; specifying when family is required;  
990           requiring the department and community-based care lead  
991           agencies to document strategies taken to engage  
992           relatives and kin; providing strategies to engage  
993           relatives and kin; requiring the department and  
994           community-based care lead agencies to use diligent  
995           efforts in family finding; providing that certain  
996           actions do not constitute family finding; requiring



371160

997 determinations by the court; requiring the department  
998 to adopt rules; amending s. 39.402, F.S.; requiring  
999 the court to request that parents consent to providing  
1000 access to additional records; upon implementation of  
1001 the family-finding program, requiring a judge to  
1002 appoint a surrogate parent for certain children;  
1003 requiring the court to place on the record its  
1004 determinations regarding the department's or the  
1005 community-based lead agency's reasonable engagement in  
1006 family finding; providing guidelines for determining  
1007 reasonableness; amending ss. 39.506; upon  
1008 implementation of the family-finding program,  
1009 requiring the court to make a determination regarding  
1010 the department's or the community-based lead agency's  
1011 reasonable engagement in family finding; providing  
1012 guidelines for determining reasonableness; amending s.  
1013 39.507, F.S.; upon implementation of the family-  
1014 finding program, requiring the court to make a  
1015 determination regarding the department's or the  
1016 community-based lead agency's reasonable engagement in  
1017 family finding; providing guidelines for determining  
1018 reasonableness; requiring the court to advise parents  
1019 that their parental rights may be terminated and the  
1020 child's out-of-home placement may become permanent  
1021 under certain circumstances; amending s. 39.5085,  
1022 F.S.; providing legislative findings and intent;  
1023 defining terms; providing the purpose of a kinship  
1024 navigator program; contingent upon the appropriation  
1025 of funds by the Legislature, requiring each community-



371160

1026 based care lead agency to establish a kinship  
1027 navigator program; providing requirements for  
1028 programs; requiring the department to adopt rules;  
1029 deleting provisions related to the Relative Caregiver  
1030 Program; amending s. 39.521, F.S.; upon implementation  
1031 of the family-finding program, requiring the court to  
1032 make a determination regarding the department's or the  
1033 community-based lead agency's reasonable engagement in  
1034 family finding; providing guidelines for determining  
1035 reasonableness; conforming provisions to changes made  
1036 by the act; amending s. 39.6012, F.S.; revising the  
1037 types of records that must be attached to a case plan  
1038 and updated throughout the judicial review process;  
1039 upon implementation of the family-finding program,  
1040 requiring that documentation of the family-finding  
1041 efforts of the department and the community-based care  
1042 lead agency be included in certain case plans;  
1043 amending s. 39.604, F.S.; revising legislative  
1044 findings and intent; revising enrollment and  
1045 attendance requirements for children in an early  
1046 education or child care program; conforming cross-  
1047 references; providing requirements and procedures for  
1048 maintaining the educational stability of a child  
1049 during the child's placement in out-of-home care, or  
1050 subsequent changes in out-of-home placement; requiring  
1051 that a child's transition from a child care or early  
1052 education program be pursuant to a plan that meets  
1053 certain requirements; amending s. 39.6251, F.S.;

1054 requiring the case manager for a young adult in foster



371160

1055 care to consult with the young adult when updating the  
1056 case plan and the transition plan and arrangements;  
1057 deleting a provision authorizing case management  
1058 reviews to be conducted by telephone under certain  
1059 circumstances; amending s. 39.701, F.S.; requiring the  
1060 court to appoint a surrogate parent if the child is  
1061 under the age of school entry; upon implementation of  
1062 the family-finding program, requiring the court to  
1063 determine if the department and community-based lead  
1064 agency has continued to reasonably engage in family  
1065 finding; providing guidelines for determining the  
1066 level of reasonableness; amending s. 409.166, F.S.;  
1067 defining terms; providing conditions for the  
1068 department to provide adoption assistance payments to  
1069 adoptive parents of certain children; providing that  
1070 children and young adults receiving benefits through  
1071 the adoption assistance program are ineligible for  
1072 other specified benefits and services; providing  
1073 additional conditions for eligibility for adoption  
1074 assistance; amending ss. 414.045 and 1009.25, F.S.;  
1075 conforming provisions to changes made by the act;  
1076 contingent upon the appropriation of funds by the  
1077 Legislature, requiring the Department of Children and  
1078 Families to create a pilot Title IV-E Guardianship  
1079 Assistance Program; providing definitions; specifying  
1080 eligibility and limitations; requiring the Relative  
1081 Caregiver Program to discontinue accepting  
1082 applications in certain circuits by a specified date;  
1083 establishing a room and board rate for guardians in



371160

1084        certain circuits who are eligible for the program;  
1085        providing an exception to licensing standards in  
1086        certain circuits under certain circumstances;  
1087        providing effective dates.