Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services (Rouson) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with directory and title amendments)**

Between lines 733 and 734 insert:

(24) The department, in collaboration with the lead agencies serving the judicial circuits selected in paragraph (a), may create and implement a program to more effectively provide case management services for dependent children under 6 years of age.

(a) If the program is created, the department shall select
up to three judicial circuits in which to develop and implement the program, with priority given to a circuit that has a high removal rate, significant case management turnover rate, and the highest numbers of children in out-of-home care or a significant increase in the number of children in out-of-home care over the last 3 fiscal years.

(b) If the program is created, it must do each of the following:

1. Include caseloads for dependency case managers comprised solely of children who are under 6 years of age, except as provided in paragraph (c). The maximum caseload for a case manager shall be no more than 15 children, if possible.

2. Include case managers who are trained specifically in:
   a. Critical child development for children under 6 years of age;
   b. Specific practices of child care for children under 6 years of age;
   c. The scope of community resources available to children under 6 years of age; and
   d. Working with a parent or caregiver and assisting him or her in developing the skills necessary to care for the health, safety, and well-being of a child under 6 years of age.

(c) If a child being served through the program has a dependent sibling, the sibling may be assigned to the same case manager as the child being served through the program; however, each sibling counts toward the case manager’s maximum caseload as provided under paragraph (b).

(d) If the program is created, the department shall evaluate the permanency, safety, and well-being of children
being served through the program and submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 1, 2025, detailing its findings.

===== DIRECTORY CLAUSE AMENDMENT ======
And the directory clause is amended as follows:
Delete line 719
and insert:
Statutes, is amended, and subsection (24) is added to that section, to read:

==================== TITLE AMENDMENT =====================
And the title is amended as follows:
Delete line 64
and insert:
employed by the department; amending s. 409.996, F.S.; conforming a provision to changes made by the act; authorizing the department and certain lead agencies to create and implement a program to more effectively provide case management services to specified children; providing criteria for selecting judicial circuits for implementation of the program; specifying requirements of the program; requiring the department to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date under specified conditions; amending s.