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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

The Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs (Hutson) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause
and insert:

Section 1. Subsections (11) and (67) of section 39.01,
Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

39.01 Definitions.—When used in this chapter, unless the
context otherwise requires:

(11) "Case plan" means a document, as described in s.
39.6011, prepared by the department with input from all parties.



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11 The case plan follows the child from the provision of preventive
12 ~~voluntary~~ services through any dependency, foster care, or
13 termination of parental rights proceeding or related activity or
14 process.

15 (67) "Preventive services" means social services and other
16 supportive and rehabilitative services provided, either
17 voluntarily or by court order, to the parent or legal custodian
18 of the child and to the child or on behalf of the child for the
19 purpose of averting the removal of the child from the home or
20 disruption of a family which will or could result in the
21 placement of a child in foster care. Social services and other
22 supportive and rehabilitative services shall promote the child's
23 developmental needs and need for physical, mental, and emotional
24 health and a safe, stable, living environment; shall promote
25 family autonomy; and shall strengthen family life, whenever
26 possible.

27 Section 2. Section 39.0135, Florida Statutes, is amended to
28 read:

29 39.0135 Federal Grants and Operations and Maintenance Trust
30 Funds Fund.—The department shall deposit all child support
31 payments made to the department, equaling the cost of care,
32 under pursuant to this chapter into the Federal Grants Trust
33 Fund for Title IV-E eligible children and the Operations and
34 Maintenance Trust Fund for children ineligible for Title IV-E.
35 If the child support payment does not equal the cost of care,
36 the total amount of the payment shall be deposited into the
37 appropriate trust fund. The purpose of this funding is to care
38 for children who are committed to the temporary legal custody of
39 the department.



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40 Section 3. Paragraphs (a) and (h) of subsection (2) of
41 section 39.202, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

42 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of
43 child abuse or neglect.—

44 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), access to such
45 records, excluding the name of, or other identifying information
46 with respect to, the reporter which shall be released only as
47 provided in subsection (5), shall be granted only to the
48 following persons, officials, and agencies:

49 (a) Employees, authorized agents, or contract providers of
50 the department, the Department of Health, the Agency for Persons
51 with Disabilities, the Agency for Health Care Administration,
52 the Office of Early Learning, or county agencies responsible for
53 carrying out:

- 54 1. Child or adult protective investigations;
- 55 2. Ongoing child or adult protective services;
- 56 3. Early intervention and prevention services;
- 57 4. Healthy Start services;
- 58 5. Licensure or approval of adoptive homes, foster homes,
59 child care facilities, facilities licensed under chapters 393
60 and 394 ~~chapter 393~~, family day care homes, providers who
61 receive school readiness funding under part VI of chapter 1002,
62 or other homes used to provide for the care and welfare of
63 children;
- 64 6. Employment screening for employees ~~caregivers~~ in
65 residential group homes licensed by the department, the Agency
66 for Persons with Disabilities, or the Agency for Health Care
67 Administration; or
- 68 7. Services for victims of domestic violence when provided



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69 by certified domestic violence centers working at the
70 department's request as case consultants or with shared clients.

71
72 Also, employees or agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice
73 responsible for the provision of services to children, under
74 ~~pursuant to~~ chapters 984 and 985.

75 (h) Any appropriate official of the department, the Agency
76 for Health Care Administration, or the Agency for Persons with
77 Disabilities who is responsible for:

78 1. Administration or supervision of the department's
79 program for the prevention, investigation, or treatment of child
80 abuse, abandonment, or neglect, or abuse, neglect, or
81 exploitation of a vulnerable adult, when carrying out his or her
82 official function;

83 2. Taking appropriate administrative action concerning an
84 employee of the department or the agency who is alleged to have
85 perpetrated child abuse, abandonment, or neglect, or abuse,
86 neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult; or

87 3. Employing and continuing employment of personnel of the
88 department or the agency.

89 Section 4. Present subsections (6) through (9) of section
90 39.6011, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (7)
91 through (10), respectively, and a new subsection (6) is added to
92 that section, to read:

93 39.6011 Case plan development.—

94 (6) When a child is placed in a qualified residential
95 treatment program, the case plan must include documentation
96 outlining the most recent assessment for a qualified residential
97 treatment program, the date of the most recent placement in a



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98 qualified residential treatment program, the treatment or
99 service needs of the child, and preparation for the child to
100 return home or be in an out-of-home placement. If a child is
101 placed in a qualified residential treatment program for longer
102 than the timeframes described in s. 409.1676, a copy of the
103 signed approval of such placement by the department must be
104 included in the case plan.

105 Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
106 39.6221, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

107 39.6221 Permanent guardianship of a dependent child.—

108 (1) If a court determines that reunification or adoption is
109 not in the best interest of the child, the court may place the
110 child in a permanent guardianship with a relative or other adult
111 approved by the court if all of the following conditions are
112 met:

113 (a) The child has been in the placement for not less than
114 the preceding 6 months, or the preceding 3 months if the
115 caregiver has been named as the successor guardian on the
116 child's guardianship assistance agreement.

117 Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
118 39.6251, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

119 39.6251 Continuing care for young adults.—

120 (4) (a) The young adult must reside in a supervised living
121 environment that is approved by the department or a community-
122 based care lead agency. The young adult shall live
123 independently, but in an environment in which he or she is
124 provided supervision, case management, and supportive services
125 by the department or lead agency. Such an environment must offer
126 developmentally appropriate freedom and responsibility to



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127 prepare the young adult for adulthood. For the purposes of this
128 subsection, a supervised living arrangement may include a
129 licensed foster home, licensed group home, college dormitory,
130 shared housing, apartment, or another housing arrangement if the
131 arrangement is approved by the community-based care lead agency
132 and is acceptable to the young adult. A young adult may continue
133 to reside with the same licensed foster family or group care
134 provider with whom he or she was residing at the time he or she
135 reached the age of 18 years. A supervised living arrangement may
136 not include detention facilities, forestry camps, training
137 schools, or any other facility operated primarily for the
138 detention of children or young adults who are determined to be
139 delinquent. A young adult may not reside in any setting in which
140 the young adult is involuntarily placed.

141 Section 7. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section
142 61.30, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (d) is added
143 to that subsection, to read:

144 61.30 Child support guidelines; retroactive child support.—

145 (1) (a) The child support guideline amount as determined by
146 this section presumptively establishes the amount the trier of
147 fact shall order as child support in an initial proceeding for
148 such support or in a proceeding for modification of an existing
149 order for such support, whether the proceeding arises under this
150 or another chapter, except as provided in paragraph (d). The
151 trier of fact may order payment of child support which varies,
152 plus or minus 5 percent, from the guideline amount, after
153 considering all relevant factors, including the needs of the
154 child or children, age, station in life, standard of living, and
155 the financial status and ability of each parent. The trier of



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156 fact may order payment of child support in an amount which
157 varies more than 5 percent from such guideline amount only upon
158 a written finding explaining why ordering payment of such
159 guideline amount would be unjust or inappropriate.

160 Notwithstanding the variance limitations of this section, the
161 trier of fact shall order payment of child support which varies
162 from the guideline amount as provided in paragraph (11) (b)
163 whenever any of the children are required by court order or
164 mediation agreement to spend a substantial amount of time with
165 either parent. This requirement applies to any living
166 arrangement, whether temporary or permanent.

167 (d) In a proceeding under chapter 39, if the child is in an
168 out-of-home placement, the presumptively correct amount of
169 periodic support is 10 percent of the obligor's actual or
170 imputed gross income. The court may deviate from this
171 presumption as provided in paragraph (a).

172 Section 8. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) and paragraph
173 (f) of subsection (4) of section 409.145, Florida Statutes, are
174 amended, and paragraph (h) is added to subsection (4) of that
175 section, to read:

176 409.145 Care of children; quality parenting; "reasonable
177 and prudent parent" standard.—The child welfare system of the
178 department shall operate as a coordinated community-based system
179 of care which empowers all caregivers for children in foster
180 care to provide quality parenting, including approving or
181 disapproving a child's participation in activities based on the
182 caregiver's assessment using the "reasonable and prudent parent"
183 standard.

184 (2) QUALITY PARENTING.—A child in foster care shall be



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185 placed only with a caregiver who has the ability to care for the
186 child, is willing to accept responsibility for providing care,
187 and is willing and able to learn about and be respectful of the
188 child's culture, religion and ethnicity, special physical or
189 psychological needs, any circumstances unique to the child, and
190 family relationships. The department, the community-based care
191 lead agency, and other agencies shall provide such caregiver
192 with all available information necessary to assist the caregiver
193 in determining whether he or she is able to appropriately care
194 for a particular child.

195 (e) Employees of Caregivers employed by residential group
196 homes.—All employees, including persons who do not work directly
197 with children, of a residential group home must meet the
198 background screening requirements under s. 39.0138 and the level
199 2 standards for screening under chapter 435 ~~All caregivers in~~
200 ~~residential group homes shall meet the same education, training,~~
201 ~~and background and other screening requirements as foster~~
202 ~~parents.~~

203 (4) FOSTER CARE ROOM AND BOARD RATES.—

204 (f) Excluding level I family foster homes, the amount of
205 the monthly foster care room and board rate may be increased
206 upon agreement among the department, the community-based care
207 lead agency, and the foster parent.

208 (h) All room and board rate increases, excluding increases
209 under paragraph (b), must be outlined in a written agreement
210 between the department and the community-based care lead agency.

211 Section 9. Section 409.1676, Florida Statutes, is amended
212 to read:

213 409.1676 Comprehensive residential group care services ~~to~~



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214 ~~children who have extraordinary needs.-~~

215 (1) It is the intent of the Legislature to provide
216 comprehensive residential group care services, ~~including~~
217 ~~residential care, case management, and other services, to~~
218 ~~children in the child protection system who have extraordinary~~
219 ~~needs.~~ These services are to be provided in a residential group
220 care setting by a not-for-profit corporation or a local
221 government entity under a contract with the Department of
222 Children and Families or by a lead agency as described in s.
223 409.987. These contracts should be designed to provide an
224 identified number of children with access to a full array of
225 services for a fixed price. Further, it is the intent of the
226 Legislature that the Department of Children and Families and the
227 Department of Juvenile Justice establish an interagency
228 agreement ~~by December 1, 2002,~~ which describes respective agency
229 responsibilities for referral, placement, service provision, and
230 service coordination for children under the care and supervision
231 of the department ~~dependent~~ and delinquent youth who are
232 referred to these residential group care facilities. The
233 agreement must require interagency collaboration in the
234 development of terms, conditions, and performance outcomes for
235 residential group care contracts serving the youth referred who
236 are under the care and supervision of the department and
237 delinquent ~~have been adjudicated both dependent and delinquent.~~

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

239 (a) ~~"Child with extraordinary needs" means a dependent~~
240 ~~child who has serious behavioral problems or who has been~~
241 ~~determined to be without the options of either reunification~~
242 ~~with family or adoption.~~



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243 ~~(b)~~ "Residential group care" means a living environment for
244 children who are under the care and supervision of the
245 department ~~have been adjudicated dependent and are expected to~~
246 ~~be in foster care for at least 6 months~~ with 24-hour-awake staff
247 or live-in group home parents or staff. Each facility must be
248 appropriately licensed in this state as a residential child
249 caring agency as defined in s. 409.175(2)(1) ~~and must be~~
250 ~~accredited by July 1, 2005. A residential group care facility~~
251 ~~servicing children having a serious behavioral problem as defined~~
252 ~~in this section must have available staff or contract personnel~~
253 ~~with the clinical expertise, credentials, and training to~~
254 ~~provide services identified in subsection (4).~~

255 ~~(c)~~ "Serious behavioral problems" means ~~behaviors of~~
256 ~~children who have been assessed by a licensed master's-level~~
257 ~~human-services professional to need at a minimum intensive~~
258 ~~services but who do not meet the criteria of s. 394.492(7). A~~
259 ~~child with an emotional disturbance as defined in s. 394.492(5)~~
260 ~~or (6) may be served in residential group care unless a~~
261 ~~determination is made by a mental health professional that such~~
262 ~~a setting is inappropriate. A child having a serious behavioral~~
263 ~~problem must have been determined in the assessment to have at~~
264 ~~least one of the following risk factors:~~

265 ~~1. An adjudication of delinquency and be on conditional~~
266 ~~release status with the Department of Juvenile Justice.~~

267 ~~2. A history of physical aggression or violent behavior~~
268 ~~toward self or others, animals, or property within the past~~
269 ~~year.~~

270 ~~3. A history of setting fires within the past year.~~

271 ~~4. A history of multiple episodes of running away from home~~



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272 ~~or placements within the past year.~~

273 ~~5. A history of sexual aggression toward other youth.~~

274 (b) "Qualifying assessment" is a department-approved
275 functional assessment administered by a qualified individual to
276 recommend or affirm placement in a qualified residential
277 treatment program.

278 (c) "Qualified individual" means a trained professional
279 with experience working with children or adolescents involved in
280 the child welfare system and who is not employed by the
281 department or lead agency and has no actual or perceived
282 conflict of interest with any placement setting or program.

283 (d) "Qualified residential treatment program" has the same
284 meaning as provided in 42 U.S.C. s. 672.

285 (3) The department, ~~in accordance with a specific~~
286 ~~appropriation for this program,~~ shall contract with a not-for-
287 profit corporation, a local government entity, or the lead
288 agency that has been established in accordance with s. 409.987
289 for the performance of residential group care services described
290 in this section. A lead agency that is currently providing
291 residential care may provide this service directly with the
292 approval of the local community alliance. The department or a
293 lead agency may contract for more than one site in a county if
294 that is determined to be the most effective way to achieve the
295 goals set forth in this section.

296 (4) The lead agency, the contracted not-for-profit
297 corporation, or the local government entity is responsible for a
298 comprehensive assessment, a qualifying assessment, residential
299 care, transportation, access to behavioral health services,
300 recreational activities, clothing, supplies, and miscellaneous



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301 expenses associated with caring for these children; for
302 necessary arrangement for or provision of educational services;
303 and for assuring necessary and appropriate health and dental
304 care.

305 ~~(5) The department may transfer all casework~~
306 ~~responsibilities for children served under this program to the~~
307 ~~entity that provides this service, including case management and~~
308 ~~development and implementation of a case plan in accordance with~~
309 ~~current standards for child protection services. When the~~
310 ~~department establishes this program in a community that has a~~
311 ~~lead agency as described in s. 409.987, the casework~~
312 ~~responsibilities must be transferred to the lead agency.~~

313 (5) ~~(6)~~ This section does not prohibit any provider of these
314 services from appropriately billing Medicaid for services
315 rendered, from contracting with a local school district for
316 educational services, or from earning federal or local funding
317 for services provided, as long as two or more funding sources do
318 not pay for the same specific service that has been provided to
319 a child.

320 (6) ~~(7)~~ The lead agency, not-for-profit corporation, or
321 local government entity has the legal authority for children
322 served under this program, as provided in chapter 39 or this
323 chapter, as appropriate, to enroll the child in school, to sign
324 for a driver license for the child, to cosign loans and
325 insurance for the child, to sign for medical treatment, and to
326 authorize other such activities.

327 (7) For children placed in a qualified residential
328 treatment program, the lead agency shall:

329 (a) Ensure each child receives a qualifying assessment no



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330 later than 30 days after placement in the program.

331 (b) Maintain documentation of a child's placement as
332 specified in s. 39.6011(6).

333 (c) Not place a child in a qualified residential treatment
334 program for more than 12 consecutive months or 18 nonconsecutive
335 months, or if the child is under the age of 13 years, for more
336 than 6 months, whether consecutive or nonconsecutive, without
337 the signed approval of the department for the continued
338 placement.

339 (d) Provide a copy of the qualifying assessment to the
340 department; the guardian ad litem; and, if the child is a member
341 of a Medicaid managed care plan, to the plan that is financially
342 responsible for the child's care in residential treatment.

343 (8) Within 60 days after initial placement, the court must
344 approve or disapprove the placement based on the qualified
345 assessment, determination, and documentation made by the
346 qualified evaluator, as well as any other factors the court
347 deems fit.

348 (9)-(8) The department shall provide technical assistance as
349 requested and contract management services.

350 ~~(9) The provisions of this section shall be implemented to~~
351 ~~the extent of available appropriations contained in the annual~~
352 ~~General Appropriations Act for such purpose.~~

353 (10) The department may adopt rules necessary to administer
354 this section.

355 Section 10. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section
356 409.1678, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

357 409.1678 Specialized residential options for children who
358 are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.-



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359 (2) CERTIFICATION OF SAFE HOUSES AND SAFE FOSTER HOMES.—
360 (c) To be certified, a safe house must hold a license as a
361 residential child-caring agency, as defined in s. 409.175, and a
362 safe foster home must hold a license as a family foster home, as
363 defined in s. 409.175. A safe house or safe foster home must
364 also:
365 1. Use strength-based and trauma-informed approaches to
366 care, to the extent possible and appropriate.
367 2. Serve exclusively one sex.
368 3. Group child victims of commercial sexual exploitation by
369 age or maturity level.
370 4. If a safe house, care for child victims of commercial
371 sexual exploitation ~~in a manner that separates those children~~
372 ~~from children with other needs. Safe houses and Safe foster~~
373 homes may care for other populations if the children who have
374 not experienced commercial sexual exploitation do not interact
375 with children who have experienced commercial sexual
376 exploitation.
377 5. Have awake staff members on duty 24 hours a day, if a
378 safe house.
379 6. Provide appropriate security through facility design,
380 hardware, technology, staffing, and siting, including, but not
381 limited to, external video monitoring or door exit alarms, a
382 high staff-to-client ratio, or being situated in a remote
383 location that is isolated from major transportation centers and
384 common trafficking areas.
385 7. Meet other criteria established by department rule,
386 which may include, but are not limited to, personnel
387 qualifications, staffing ratios, and types of services offered.



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388 Section 11. Section 409.1679, Florida Statutes, is
389 repealed.

390 Section 12. Paragraphs (l) and (m) of subsection (2) of
391 section 409.175, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

392 409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential
393 child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies; public
394 records exemption.—

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

396 (1) "Residential child-caring agency" means any person,
397 corporation, or agency, public or private, other than the
398 child's parent or legal guardian, that provides staffed 24-hour
399 care for children in facilities maintained for that purpose,
400 regardless of whether operated for profit or whether a fee is
401 charged. Such residential child-caring agencies include, but are
402 not limited to, maternity homes, runaway shelters, group homes
403 that are administered by an agency, emergency shelters that are
404 not in private residences, qualified residential treatment
405 programs as defined in s. 409.1676, human trafficking safe
406 houses as defined in s. 409.1678, at-risk homes, and wilderness
407 camps. Residential child-caring agencies do not include
408 hospitals, boarding schools, summer or recreation camps, nursing
409 homes, or facilities operated by a governmental agency for the
410 training, treatment, or secure care of delinquent youth, or
411 facilities licensed under s. 393.067 or s. 394.875 or chapter
412 397.

413 (m) "Screening" means the act of assessing the background
414 of personnel or level II through level V family foster homes and
415 includes, but is not limited to, criminal history checks as
416 provided in s. 39.0138 and employment history checks as provided



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417 in chapter 435, using the level 2 standards for screening set
418 forth in that chapter.

419 Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (14) of section
420 39.301, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

421 39.301 Initiation of protective investigations.-

422 (14) (a) If the department or its agent determines that a
423 child requires immediate or long-term protection through medical
424 or other health care or homemaker care, day care, protective
425 supervision, or other services to stabilize the home
426 environment, including intensive family preservation services
427 through the Intensive Crisis Counseling Program, such services
428 shall first be offered for voluntary acceptance unless:

429 1. There are high-risk factors that may impact the ability
430 of the parents or legal custodians to exercise judgment. Such
431 factors may include the parents' or legal custodians' young age
432 or history of substance abuse, mental illness, or domestic
433 violence; or

434 2. There is a high likelihood of lack of compliance with
435 preventive voluntary services, and such noncompliance would
436 result in the child being unsafe.

437 Section 14. Paragraph (b) of subsection (7) of section
438 39.302, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

439 39.302 Protective investigations of institutional child
440 abuse, abandonment, or neglect.-

441 (7) When an investigation of institutional abuse, neglect,
442 or abandonment is closed and a person is not identified as a
443 caregiver responsible for the abuse, neglect, or abandonment
444 alleged in the report, the fact that the person is named in some
445 capacity in the report may not be used in any way to adversely



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446 affect the interests of that person. This prohibition applies to
447 any use of the information in employment screening, licensing,
448 child placement, adoption, or any other decisions by a private
449 adoption agency or a state agency or its contracted providers.

450 (b) Likewise, if a person is employed as a caregiver in a
451 residential group home licensed under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 409.175 and
452 is named in any capacity in three or more reports within a 5-
453 year period, the department may review all reports for the
454 purposes of the employment screening required under s.
455 409.175(2)(m) ~~pursuant to s. 409.145(2)(e)~~.

456 Section 15. Subsection (15) of section 39.402, Florida
457 Statutes, is amended to read:

458 39.402 Placement in a shelter.-

459 (15) The department, at the conclusion of the shelter
460 hearing, shall make available to parents or legal custodians
461 seeking preventive ~~voluntary~~ services any referral information
462 necessary for participation in such identified services to allow
463 the parents or legal custodians to begin the services as soon as
464 possible. The parents' or legal custodians' participation in the
465 services may not be considered an admission or other
466 acknowledgment of the allegations in the shelter petition.

467 Section 16. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
468 39.501, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

469 39.501 Petition for dependency.-

470 (3)

471 (d) The petitioner must state in the petition, if known,
472 whether:

473 1. A parent or legal custodian named in the petition has
474 previously unsuccessfully participated in preventive ~~voluntary~~



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475 services offered by the department;

476 2. A parent or legal custodian named in the petition has
477 participated in mediation and whether a mediation agreement
478 exists;

479 3. A parent or legal custodian has rejected the preventive
480 ~~voluntary~~ services offered by the department;

481 4. A parent or legal custodian named in the petition has
482 not fully complied with a safety plan; or

483 5. The department has determined that preventive ~~voluntary~~
484 services are not appropriate for the parent or legal custodian
485 and the reasons for such determination.

486

487 If the department is the petitioner, it shall provide all safety
488 plans as defined in s. 39.01 involving the parent or legal
489 custodian to the court.

490 Section 17. Subsection (8) of section 39.6013, Florida
491 Statutes, is amended to read:

492 39.6013 Case plan amendments.—

493 (8) Amendments must include service interventions that are
494 the least intrusive into the life of the parent and child, must
495 focus on clearly defined objectives, and must provide the most
496 efficient path to quick reunification or permanent placement
497 given the circumstances of the case and the child's need for
498 safe and proper care. A copy of the amended plan must be
499 immediately given to the persons identified in s. 39.6011(8)(c)
500 ~~s. 39.6011(7)(c)~~.

501 Section 18. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

502

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



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504 And the title is amended as follows:

505 Delete everything before the enacting clause
506 and insert:

507 A bill to be entitled

508 An act relating to child welfare; amending s. 39.01,
509 F.S.; revising definitions; amending s. 39.0135, F.S.;
510 requiring that child support payments be deposited
511 into specified trust funds; amending s. 39.202, F.S.;
512 authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration
513 to access certain records; amending s. 39.6011, F.S.;
514 requiring certain documentation in the case plan when
515 a child is placed in a qualified residential treatment
516 program; amending s. 39.6221, F.S.; revising the
517 conditions under which a court determines permanent
518 guardian placement for a child; amending s. 39.6251,
519 F.S.; specifying certain facilities that are not
520 considered a supervised living arrangement; requiring
521 a supervised living arrangement to be voluntary;
522 amending s. 61.30, F.S.; providing a presumption for
523 child support in certain proceedings under ch. 39;
524 amending s. 409.145, F.S.; requiring certain screening
525 requirements for residential group home employees;
526 requiring a written agreement to modify foster care
527 room and board rates; providing an exception; amending
528 s. 409.1676, F.S.; revising legislative intent;
529 revising and providing definitions; revising a
530 provision requiring the department to contract with
531 certain entities; revising requirements for lead
532 agencies, not-for-profit corporations, and local



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533 government entities with which the department is
534 contracted; deleting a provision authorizing the
535 department to transfer casework responsibilities for
536 certain children to specified entities; providing
537 responsibilities for lead care agencies; providing
538 placement timeframes for the qualified residential
539 treatment program; deleting a provision requiring that
540 certain provisions be implemented to the extent of
541 available appropriations contained in the annual
542 General Appropriations Act; amending s. 409.1678,
543 F.S.; revising a requirement and an authorization for
544 safe houses; repealing s. 409.1679, F.S., relating to
545 comprehensive residential group care requirements and
546 reimbursement; amending s. 409.175, F.S.; revising
547 definitions; amending ss. 39.301, 39.302, 39.402,
548 39.501, and 39.6013, F.S.; making technical changes
549 and conforming provisions to changes made by the act;
550 providing an effective date.