

Amendment No. 2

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

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WITHDRAWN	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

1 Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Children, Families &
2 Seniors Subcommittee
3 Representative Busatta Cabrera offered the following:

Amendment

Remove lines 1083-1211 and insert:

7 (2) Develop a list of age-appropriate activities and
8 responsibilities useful for the development of specific life
9 skills for use by children and their caregivers. The age-
10 appropriate activities must address specific topics tailored to
11 the needs of each child's developmental stage. For young adults,
12 the list of age-appropriate activities must include, but is not
13 limited to, informing the young adult of available independent
14 living services and community resources and how to apply for
15 services.

Amendment No. 2

16 (3) Design and disseminate training for caregivers related
17 to building needed life skills. The training must include
18 components that address the challenges of children in foster
19 care in transitioning to adulthood and information on programs
20 for children who are aging out of care under ss. 414.56 and
21 409.1451, high school completion, applications for financial
22 assistance for higher education, vocational school
23 opportunities, supporting education, and employment
24 opportunities.

25 (4) Beginning after the child's 13th birthday, regularly
26 assess the degree of life skills acquisition by each child. The
27 department shall share the results of the assessment with the
28 caregiver and support the caregiver in creating, implementing,
29 monitoring, and revising plans as necessary to address the
30 child's life skills deficits, if any.

31 (5) Provide opportunities for children in foster care to
32 interact with qualified, trained mentors who are committed to
33 engaging reliably with the child long-term.

34 (6) Develop and implement procedures for children of
35 sufficient age and understanding to directly access and manage
36 the personal allowance they receive from the department. Section
37 12.

38 Subsection (4) of section 409.1454, Florida Statutes, is
39 amended to read:

Amendment No. 2

40 409.1454 Motor vehicle insurance and driver licenses for
41 children in care.—

42 (4) Payment shall be made to eligible recipients in the
43 order of eligibility until available funds are exhausted. If a
44 child determined to be eligible reaches permanency status or
45 turns 18 years of age, the program may pay for that child to
46 complete a driver education program and obtain a driver license
47 for up to 6 months after the date the child reaches permanency
48 status or 6 months after the date the child turns 18 years of
49 age. A child continuing in care under s. 39.6251, or who was in
50 licensed care when the child reached 18 years of age and is
51 currently receiving postsecondary education services and support
52 under s. 409.1451(2), may be eligible to have the costs of
53 licensure and costs incidental to licensure paid if the child
54 demonstrates that such costs are creating barriers for obtaining
55 employment or completing educational goals.

56 Section 13. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 409.988,
57 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

58 409.988 Community-based care lead agency duties; general
59 provisions.—

60 (1) DUTIES.—A lead agency:

61 (a) 1. Shall serve:

62 a. All children referred as a result of a report of abuse,
63 neglect, or abandonment to the department's central abuse
64 hotline, including, but not limited to, children who are the

Amendment No. 2

65 subject of verified reports and children who are not the subject
66 of verified reports but who are at moderate to extremely high
67 risk of abuse, neglect, or abandonment, as determined using the
68 department's risk assessment instrument, regardless of the level
69 of funding allocated to the lead agency by the state if all
70 related funding is transferred.

71 b. Children who were adopted from the child welfare system
72 and whose families require post-adoption supports.

73 2. ~~The lead agency~~ May also serve children who have not
74 been the subject of reports of abuse, neglect, or abandonment,
75 but who are at risk of abuse, neglect, or abandonment, to
76 prevent their entry into the child protection and child welfare
77 system. Section 14. Section 414.56, Florida Statutes, is
78 created to read:

79 414.56 Office of Continuing Care.—The department shall
80 establish an Office of Continuing Care to ensure young adults
81 who age out of the foster care system between 18 and 21 years of
82 age, or 22 years of age with a documented disability, have a
83 point of contact until the young adult reaches the age of 26 in
84 order to receive ongoing support and care coordination needed to
85 achieve self-sufficiency. Duties of the office include, but are
86 not limited to:

87 (1) Informing young adults who age out of the foster care
88 system of the purpose of the office, the types of support the
89 office provides, and how to contact the office.

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Amendment No. 2

90 (2) Serving as a direct contact to the young adult in
91 order to provide information on how to access services to
92 support the young adult's self-sufficiency, including, but not
93 limited to, food assistance, behavioral health services,
94 housing, Medicaid, and educational services.

95 (3) Assisting in accessing services and supports for the
96 young adult to attain self-sufficiency, including, but not
97 limited to, completing documentation required to apply for
98 services.

99 (4) Collaborating with community-based care lead agencies
100 to identify local resources that can provide support to young
101 adults served by the office.

102 (5) Remaining in contact with young adults who age out of
103 the foster care system until the young adult reaches the age of
104 26 in order to assist them in accessing the supports needed to
105 be self-sufficient.

106 Section 15. The Florida Institute for Child Welfare
107 established under s. 1004.615 shall:

108 (1) (a) Evaluate the effectiveness of the state's efforts
109 to assist young adults in foster care in developing independent
110 living skills. The Florida Institute for Child Welfare shall
111 consult with the Institute for Food and Agricultural Services
112 Extension Program at the University of Florida in conducting its
113 evaluation.

114 (b) The evaluation shall, at a minimum:

Amendment No. 2

115 1. Describe current requirements for caregivers to assist
116 young adults in acquiring independent living skills, the
117 information and available supports provided to caregivers for
118 doing so, and the actual level of engagement in these efforts by
119 caregivers.

120 2. Specify methods and measures used to determine if young
121 adults have acquired or developed adequate independent living
122 skills and how that information is used to support independent-
123 living skill development for individual young adults.

124 3. Describe outcomes on a statewide basis, as well as by
125 individual community-based care lead agency, and describe how
126 this information is currently being used to improve performance.

127 4. Identify best practices for helping young adults in
128 foster care develop independent living skills and compare the
129 state's current approach to the best practices.

130 5. Specify any barriers that may prevent young adults from
131 becoming self-sufficient.

132 6. Evaluate whether the state's current approach to
133 developing independent living skills for young adults in foster
134 care is adequate, and recommend any changes to enhance the
135 effectiveness of the state's approach to prepare young adults
136 for self-sufficiency. Any recommendations must prioritize
137 maintaining the state's current approach of primarily relying on
138 caregivers to assist young adults in developing life skills, and

Amendment No. 2

139 recommend that such efforts be part of everyday life experiences
140 to the extent possible.

141 (7) Include the input of current and former foster youth.
142 The Institute shall attempt to interview current and former
143 foster youth on their experience with the state's approach on
144 preparing them for adulthood, what independent living skills
145 provided were age-appropriate or helpful, and what
146 recommendations the current or former foster youth have to
147 improve the state's approach in preparing them for adulthood.

148 (c) The Institute for Child Welfare shall submit its
149