

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Bill No. CS/HB 879 (2025)

Amendment No.1

COMMITTEE/SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

ADOPTED _____ (Y/N)

ADOPTED AS AMENDED _____ (Y/N)

ADOPTED W/O OBJECTION _____ (Y/N)

FAILED TO ADOPT _____ (Y/N)

WITHDRAWN _____ (Y/N)

OTHER

Committee/Subcommittee hearing bill: Education & Employment
Committee

Representative Rizo offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

**Section 1. Subsections (4), (5), and (6) are added to
section 409.1452, Florida Statutes, to read:**

409.1452 Collaboration with State University System,
Florida College System, and Department of Education to assist
children and young adults who have been or are in foster care or
are experiencing homelessness; documentation regarding
eligibility for tuition and fee exemptions; housing assistance.—
The department shall collaborate with the State University
System, the Florida College System, and the Department of
Education to address the need for a comprehensive support

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17 structure in the academic arena to assist children and young
18 adults who have been or remain in the foster care system in
19 making the transition from a structured care system into an
20 independent living setting.

21 (4) Each Florida College System institution and state
22 university shall, in consultation with the State Office on
23 Homelessness within the Department of Children and Families,
24 develop a plan to prioritize the placement of students who are
25 currently or were formerly in foster care or who are
26 experiencing homelessness or are at risk of experiencing
27 homelessness, including, but not limited to, students eligible
28 for the tuition and fee exemption under s. 1009.25(1)(c)1.-4. or
29 (1)(e), in residence halls or dormitory residences owned by the
30 institution or university. The Office of Continuing Care
31 established under s. 414.56 is responsible for determining if a
32 student is or was formerly in foster care. Each Florida College
33 System institution and state university is responsible for
34 determining whether a student is eligible for a tuition or fee
35 exemption under s. 1009.25(1)(c)1.-4. or (1)(e).

36 (5) If a Florida College System institution or state
37 university implements a priority system for the assignment of
38 students to or the award of any of the following, the
39 institution or university must give first priority to students
40 who are eligible for the tuition and fee exemption under s.
41 1009.25(1)(c)1.-4. or (1)(e):

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42 (a) Institution-operated or university-operated housing.

43 (b) Year-round housing.

44 (c) Work-study opportunities.

45 (6) Florida College System institutions and state
46 universities may not require a student to have a cosigner or
47 guarantor to obtain housing if the student receives housing
48 support under s. 409.1451(2) or (3) or is receiving continuing
49 care under s. 39.6251.

50 **Section 2. Section 409.14525, Florida Statutes, is created**
51 **to read:**

52 409.14525 Housing support for young adults; federal
53 housing vouchers.—

54 (1) The department, community-based care lead agencies,
55 and housing authorities created under s. 421.04 shall administer
56 the federal Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative and
57 other federal programs and vouchers offered by the United States
58 Department of Housing and Urban Development, which may require
59 the department, a community-based care lead agency, and
60 subcontracted service providers thereof to do any of the
61 following:

62 (a) Enter into a memorandum of understanding or letter of
63 intent with each housing authority located within the service
64 area of the department or community-based care lead agency.

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65 (b) Provide or secure supportive services for
66 participating young adults for the duration of the FYI
67 initiative voucher.

68 (c) Provide a written certification to the housing
69 authority verifying the young adult's child welfare history.

70 (d) Identify each young adult eligible for an FYI
71 initiative voucher within each community-based care lead
72 agency's caseload and communicate such eligibility to each young
73 adult.

74 (2) The department, community-based care lead agencies,
75 and subcontracted service providers thereof that administer
76 housing funds for young adults in the child welfare system must
77 document actions taken to facilitate a young adult's acquisition
78 of a residential lease, including, but not limited to, providing
79 assurances to a landlord that funding will be provided on a
80 monthly basis through a housing voucher. This subsection applies
81 to entities that serve young adults receiving postsecondary
82 educational services and support or aftercare services under s.
83 409.1451 or young adults receiving continuing care under
84 39.6251.

85 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

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87 -----
88 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

89 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to young adults who are homeless or were in the child welfare system; amending s. 409.1452, F.S.; requiring each Florida College System institution and state university, in consultation with the State Office on Homelessness, to develop a plan to prioritize the placement of certain students in residence halls or dormitory residences; providing responsibilities for the Office of Continuing Care, Florida College System institutions, and state universities; requiring that certain institutions and universities give priority to certain students for housing and work-study opportunities; prohibiting institutions and universities from requiring a cosigner or guarantor to obtain housing for certain students; creating s. 409.14525, F.S.; requiring certain entities to administer certain federal programs and vouchers; providing requirements for administering such programs and vouchers; requiring specified entities to document certain actions and provide certain assurances to landlords; providing applicability; providing an effective date.