

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to young adults who are homeless or  
3 were in the child welfare system; amending s.  
4 409.1452, F.S.; requiring each Florida College System  
5 institution and state university, in consultation with  
6 the State Office on Homelessness, to develop a plan to  
7 prioritize the placement of certain students in  
8 residence halls or dormitory residences; providing  
9 responsibilities for the Office of Continuing Care,  
10 Florida College System institutions, and state  
11 universities; requiring that certain institutions and  
12 universities give priority to certain students for  
13 housing and work-study opportunities; prohibiting  
14 institutions and universities from requiring a  
15 cosigner or guarantor to obtain housing for certain  
16 students; creating s. 409.14525, F.S.; requiring  
17 certain entities to administer certain federal  
18 programs and vouchers; providing requirements for  
19 administering such programs and vouchers; requiring  
20 specified entities to document certain actions and  
21 provide certain assurances to landlords; providing  
22 applicability; providing an effective date.

23  
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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26           **Section 1. Subsections (4), (5), and (6) are added to**  
 27 **section 409.1452, Florida Statutes, to read:**

28           409.1452 Collaboration with State University System,  
 29 Florida College System, and Department of Education to assist  
 30 children and young adults who have been or are in foster care or  
 31 are experiencing homelessness; documentation regarding  
 32 eligibility for tuition and fee exemptions; housing assistance.—  
 33 The department shall collaborate with the State University  
 34 System, the Florida College System, and the Department of  
 35 Education to address the need for a comprehensive support  
 36 structure in the academic arena to assist children and young  
 37 adults who have been or remain in the foster care system in  
 38 making the transition from a structured care system into an  
 39 independent living setting.

40           (4) Each Florida College System institution and state  
 41 university shall, in consultation with the State Office on  
 42 Homelessness within the Department of Children and Families,  
 43 develop a plan to prioritize the placement of students who are  
 44 currently or were formerly in foster care or who are  
 45 experiencing homelessness or are at risk of experiencing  
 46 homelessness, including, but not limited to, students eligible  
 47 for the tuition and fee exemption under s. 1009.25(1)(c)1.-4. or  
 48 (1)(e), in residence halls or dormitory residences owned by the  
 49 institution or university. The Office of Continuing Care  
 50 established under s. 414.56 is responsible for determining if a

51 student is or was formerly in foster care. Each Florida College  
 52 System institution and state university is responsible for  
 53 determining whether a student is eligible for a tuition or fee  
 54 exemption under s. 1009.25(1)(e).

55 (5) If a Florida College System institution or state  
 56 university implements a priority system for the assignment of  
 57 students to or the award of any of the following, the  
 58 institution or university must give first priority to students  
 59 who are eligible for the tuition and fee exemption under s.  
 60 1009.25(1)(c)1.-4. or (1)(e):

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

62 (b) Year-round housing.

63 (c) Work-study opportunities.

64 (6) Florida College System institutions and state  
 65 universities may not require a student to have a cosigner or  
 66 guarantor to obtain housing if the student receives housing  
 67 support under s. 409.1451(2) or (3) or is receiving continuing  
 68 care under s. 39.6251.

69 **Section 2. Section 409.14525, Florida Statutes, is created**  
 70 **to read:**

71 409.14525 Housing support for young adults; federal  
 72 housing vouchers.—

73 (1) The department, community-based care lead agencies,  
 74 and housing authorities created under s. 421.04 shall administer  
 75 the federal Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative and

76 other federal programs and vouchers offered by the United States  
77 Department of Housing and Urban Development, which may require  
78 the department, a community-based care lead agency, and  
79 subcontracted service providers thereof to do any of the  
80 following:

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

84 (b) Provide or secure supportive services for  
85 participating young adults for the duration of the FYI  
86 initiative voucher.

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

89 (d) Identify each young adult eligible for an FYI  
90 initiative voucher within each community-based care lead  
91 agency's caseload and communicate such eligibility to each young  
92 adult.

93 (2) The department, community-based care lead agencies,  
94 and subcontracted service providers thereof that administer  
95 housing funds for young adults in the child welfare system must  
96 document actions taken to facilitate a young adult's acquisition  
97 of a residential lease, including, but not limited to, providing  
98 assurances to a landlord that funding will be provided on a  
99 monthly basis through a housing voucher. This subsection applies  
100 to entities that serve young adults receiving postsecondary

101 | educational services and support or aftercare services under s.  
102 | 409.1451 or young adults receiving continuing care under  
103 | 39.6251.

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