

**By** the Committee on Fiscal Policy; the Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and Senator Grall

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to child welfare; creating s. 39.3011,  
3       F.S.; defining the term "Family Advocacy Program";  
4       requiring the Department of Children and Families to  
5       enter into agreements with certain military  
6       installations for child protective investigations  
7       involving military families; providing requirements  
8       for such agreements; amending s. 39.401, F.S.;  
9       authorizing a law enforcement officer or an authorized  
10      agent of the department to take a child into custody  
11      who is the subject of a specified court order;  
12      amending s. 39.407, F.S.; requiring the department to  
13      develop rules to include a specific process to ensure  
14      children receive timely access to clinically  
15      appropriate psychotropic medications; amending s.  
16      39.905, F.S.; authorizing the department to waive a  
17      specified requirement if there is an emergency need  
18      for a new domestic violence center, to issue a  
19      provisional certification to such center under certain  
20      circumstances, and to adopt rules relating to  
21      provisional certifications; amending s. 125.901, F.S.;  
22      revising membership requirements for the governing  
23      bodies of certain independent special districts;  
24      authorizing the county governing body to select an  
25      interim appointment for a vacancy under certain  
26      circumstances; revising the terms for certain members  
27      of the districts' governing bodies; amending s.  
28      402.305, F.S.; authorizing the department to grant  
29      certain exemptions from disqualification for certain

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30 persons; amending s. 409.145, F.S.; requiring the  
31 department to establish a methodology to determine  
32 daily room and board rates for certain children by a  
33 date certain, which may include different rates based  
34 on a child's acuity level or the geographic location  
35 of the residential child-caring agency; requiring the  
36 department to adopt rules; amending s. 409.175, F.S.;  
37 authorizing the department to grant certain exemptions  
38 from disqualification for certain persons; authorizing  
39 the department to extend the expiration date of a  
40 license by a specified amount of time for a certain  
41 purpose; amending s. 409.993, F.S.; specifying that  
42 subcontractors of lead agencies that are direct  
43 providers of foster care and related services are not  
44 liable for certain acts or omissions; providing that  
45 certain contract provisions are void and  
46 unenforceable; amending s. 553.73, F.S.; prohibiting  
47 the Florida Building Commission from mandating the  
48 installation of fire sprinklers or a fire suppression  
49 system in certain agencies licensed by the department;  
50 amending s. 633.208, F.S.; providing that certain  
51 residential child-caring agencies are not required to  
52 install fire sprinklers or a fire suppression system  
53 under certain circumstances; amending s. 937.0201,  
54 F.S.; revising the definition of the term "missing  
55 child"; amending s. 937.021, F.S.; specifying the  
56 entity with jurisdiction for accepting missing child  
57 reports under certain circumstances; amending ss.  
58 402.30501, 1002.57, and 1002.59, F.S.; conforming

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59 cross-references; providing an effective date.

60  
61 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

62  
63 Section 1. Section 39.3011, Florida Statutes, is created to  
64 read:

65 39.3011 Protective investigations involving military  
66 families.-

67 (1) For purposes of this section, the term "Family Advocacy  
68 Program" means the program established by the United States  
69 Department of Defense to address child abuse, abandonment, and  
70 neglect in military families.

71 (2) The department shall enter into an agreement for child  
72 protective investigations involving military families with the  
73 Family Advocacy Program, or any successor program, of each  
74 United States military installation located in this state. Such  
75 agreement must include procedures for all of the following:

76 (a) Identifying the military personnel alleged to have  
77 committed the child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

78 (b) Notifying and sharing information with the military  
79 installation when a child protective investigation implicating  
80 military personnel has been initiated.

81 (c) Maintaining confidentiality as required under state and  
82 federal law.

83 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 39.401, Florida  
84 Statutes, is amended to read:

85 39.401 Taking a child alleged to be dependent into custody;  
86 law enforcement officers and authorized agents of the  
87 department.-

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88 (1) A child may only be taken into custody:

89 (a) Pursuant to the provisions of this part, based upon  
90 sworn testimony, either before or after a petition is filed; or

91 (b) By a law enforcement officer, or an authorized agent of  
92 the department, if the officer or authorized agent has probable  
93 cause to support a finding that the:

94 1. ~~That the~~ Child has been abused, neglected, or abandoned,  
95 or is suffering from or is in imminent danger of illness or  
96 injury as a result of abuse, neglect, or abandonment;

97 2. Child is the subject of a court order to take the child  
98 into the custody of the department;

99 3.2. ~~That the~~ Parent or legal custodian of the child has  
100 materially violated a condition of placement imposed by the  
101 court; or

102 4.3. ~~That the~~ Child has no parent, legal custodian, or  
103 responsible adult relative immediately known and available to  
104 provide supervision and care.

105 Section 3. Paragraph (g) of subsection (3) of section  
106 39.407, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

107 39.407 Medical, psychiatric, and psychological examination  
108 and treatment of child; physical, mental, or substance abuse  
109 examination of person with or requesting child custody.—

110 (3)

111 (g) The department must ~~shall~~ adopt rules to ensure that  
112 children receive timely access to clinically appropriate  
113 psychotropic medications. These rules must include, but need not  
114 be limited to, the process for determining which adjunctive  
115 services are needed, the uniform process for facilitating the  
116 prescribing physician's or psychiatric nurse's ability to obtain

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117 the express and informed consent of a child's parent or  
118 guardian, the procedures for obtaining court authorization for  
119 the provision of a psychotropic medication, the frequency of  
120 medical monitoring and reporting on the status of the child to  
121 the court, how the child's parents will be involved in the  
122 treatment-planning process if their parental rights have not  
123 been terminated, ~~and~~ how caretakers are to be provided  
124 information contained in the physician's or psychiatric nurse's  
125 signed medical report, and the procedures to allow caretakers to  
126 schedule and facilitate medical appointments to ensure timely  
127 access to and the management of existing psychotropic medication  
128 prescriptions. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term  
129 "caretaker" means a person or entity in physical custody of a  
130 child placed pursuant to s. 39.401, to include a representative  
131 of a licensed child-caring agency or emergency shelter. The  
132 rules must also include uniform forms to be used in requesting  
133 court authorization for the use of a psychotropic medication and  
134 provide for the integration of each child's treatment plan and  
135 case plan. The department must begin the formal rulemaking  
136 process within 90 days after the effective date of this act.

137 Section 4. Paragraph (h) of subsection (1) of section  
138 39.905, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

139 39.905 Domestic violence centers.—

140 (1) Domestic violence centers certified under this part  
141 must:

142 (h) Demonstrate local need and ability to sustain  
143 operations through a history of 18 consecutive months' operation  
144 as a domestic violence center, including 12 months' operation of  
145 an emergency shelter as provided in paragraph (c), and a

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146 business plan which addresses future operations and funding of  
147 future operations. The department may waive this requirement if  
148 there is an emergency need for a new domestic violence center to  
149 provide services in an area and no other viable options exist to  
150 ensure continuity of services. If there is an emergency need,  
151 the department may issue a provisional certification to the  
152 domestic violence center as long as the center meets all other  
153 criteria in this subsection. The department may adopt rules to  
154 provide minimum standards for a provisional certificate,  
155 including increased monitoring and site visits and the time  
156 period that such certificate is valid.

157 Section 5. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1) of  
158 section 125.901, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

159 125.901 Children's services; independent special district;  
160 council; powers, duties, and functions; public records  
161 exemption.—

162 (1) Each county may by ordinance create an independent  
163 special district, as defined in ss. 189.012 and 200.001(8)(e),  
164 to provide funding for children's services throughout the county  
165 in accordance with this section. The boundaries of such district  
166 shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the county. The  
167 county governing body shall obtain approval at a general  
168 election, as defined in s. 97.021, by a majority vote of those  
169 electors voting on the question, to annually levy ad valorem  
170 taxes which shall not exceed the maximum millage rate authorized  
171 by this section. Any district created pursuant to the provisions  
172 of this subsection shall be required to levy and fix millage  
173 subject to the provisions of s. 200.065. Once such millage is  
174 approved by the electorate, the district shall not be required

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175 to seek approval of the electorate in future years to levy the  
176 previously approved millage. However, a referendum to increase  
177 the millage rate previously approved by the electors must be  
178 held at a general election, and the referendum may be held only  
179 once during the 48-month period preceding the effective date of  
180 the increased millage.

181 (a) The governing body of the district shall be a council  
182 on children's services, which may also be known as a juvenile  
183 welfare board or similar name as established in the ordinance by  
184 the county governing body. Such council shall consist of 10  
185 members, including the superintendent of schools; a local school  
186 board member; a representative ~~the district administrator~~ from  
187 the appropriate district of the Department of Children and  
188 Families, or his or her designee who is a member of the Senior  
189 Management Service or of the Selected Exempt Service; one member  
190 of the county governing body; and the judge assigned to juvenile  
191 cases who shall sit as a voting member of the board, except that  
192 said judge shall not vote or participate in the setting of ad  
193 valorem taxes under this section. If there is more than one  
194 judge assigned to juvenile cases in a county, the chief judge  
195 shall designate one of said juvenile judges to serve on the  
196 board. The remaining five members shall be appointed by the  
197 Governor, and shall, to the extent possible, represent the  
198 demographic makeup ~~diversity~~ of the population of the county.  
199 After soliciting recommendations from the public, the county  
200 governing body shall submit to the Governor recommendations ~~the~~  
201 ~~names of at least three persons~~ for each vacancy occurring among  
202 the five members appointed by the Governor, and the Governor may  
203 ~~shall~~ appoint members to the council from the candidates

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204 nominated by the county governing body. The Governor shall make  
205 a selection within a 45-day period, but if the Governor fails to  
206 make an appointment within the 45-day period, the county  
207 governing body may select an interim appointment for each  
208 vacancy from the recommendations submitted to the Governor ~~or~~  
209 ~~request a new list of candidates.~~ All members recommended by the  
210 county governing body and appointed by the Governor must ~~shall~~  
211 have been residents of the county for the previous 24-month  
212 period. Such members shall be appointed for 4-year terms, except  
213 that the length of the terms of the initial appointees shall be  
214 adjusted to stagger the terms. The Governor may remove a member  
215 for cause or upon the written petition of the county governing  
216 body. If any of the members of the council required to be  
217 appointed by the Governor under ~~the provisions of this~~  
218 subsection resigns, dies, or is ~~shall resign, die, or be~~ removed  
219 from office, the vacancy thereby created shall, as soon as  
220 practicable, be filled by appointment by the Governor, using the  
221 same method as the original appointment, and such appointment to  
222 fill a vacancy shall be for the unexpired term of the person who  
223 resigns, dies, or is removed from office.

224 (b) However, any county as defined in s. 125.011(1) may  
225 instead have a governing body consisting of 33 members,  
226 including the superintendent of schools, or his or her designee;  
227 two representatives of public postsecondary education  
228 institutions located in the county; the county manager or the  
229 equivalent county officer, or his or her designee; the district  
230 administrator from the appropriate district of the Department of  
231 Children and Families, or the administrator's designee who is a  
232 member of the Senior Management Service or the Selected Exempt



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233 Service; the director of the county health department or the  
234 director's designee; the state attorney for the county or the  
235 state attorney's designee; the chief judge assigned to juvenile  
236 cases, or another juvenile judge who is the chief judge's  
237 designee and who shall sit as a voting member of the board,  
238 except that the judge may not vote or participate in setting ad  
239 valorem taxes under this section; an individual who is selected  
240 by the board of the local United Way or its equivalent; a member  
241 of a locally recognized faith-based coalition, selected by that  
242 coalition; a member of the local chamber of commerce, selected  
243 by that chamber or, if more than one chamber exists within the  
244 county, a person selected by a coalition of the local chambers;  
245 a member of the early learning coalition, selected by that  
246 coalition; a representative of a labor organization or union  
247 active in the county; ~~a member of a local alliance or coalition~~  
248 ~~engaged in cross-system planning for health and social service~~  
249 ~~delivery in the county, selected by that alliance or coalition;~~  
250 a member of the local Parent-Teachers Association/Parent-  
251 Teacher-Student Association, selected by that association; a  
252 youth representative selected by the local school system's  
253 student government; a local school board member appointed by the  
254 chair of the school board; the mayor of the county or the  
255 mayor's designee; one member of the county governing body,  
256 appointed by the chair of that body; a member of the state  
257 Legislature who represents residents of the county, selected by  
258 the chair of the local legislative delegation; an elected  
259 official representing the residents of a municipality in the  
260 county, selected by the county municipal league; and 5 4  
261 members-at-large, appointed to the council by the majority of

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262 sitting council members. The remaining seven members shall be  
263 appointed by the Governor in accordance with procedures set  
264 forth in paragraph (a), except that the Governor may remove a  
265 member for cause or upon the written petition of the council.  
266 Appointments by the Governor must, to the extent reasonably  
267 possible, represent the geographic and demographic makeup  
268 ~~diversity~~ of the population of the county. Members who are  
269 appointed to the council by reason of their position are not  
270 subject to the length of terms and limits on consecutive terms  
271 as provided in this section. The remaining appointed members of  
272 the governing body shall be appointed to serve 3-year ~~2-year~~  
273 terms, except that those members appointed by the Governor shall  
274 be appointed to serve 4-year terms, and the youth representative  
275 and the legislative delegate shall be appointed to serve 1-year  
276 terms. A member may be reappointed; however, a member may not  
277 serve for more than three consecutive terms. A member is  
278 eligible to be appointed again after a 2-year hiatus from the  
279 council.

280 Section 6. Subsection (2) of section 402.305, Florida  
281 Statutes, is amended to read:

282 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

283 (2) PERSONNEL.—Minimum standards for child care personnel  
284 shall include minimum requirements as to:

285 (a) Good moral character based upon screening as defined in  
286 s. 402.302(15). This screening shall be conducted as provided in  
287 chapter 435, using the level 2 standards for screening set forth  
288 in that chapter, and include employment history checks, a search  
289 of criminal history records, sexual predator and sexual offender  
290 registries, and child abuse and neglect registry of any state in

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291 which the current or prospective child care personnel resided  
292 during the preceding 5 years.

293 (b) Fingerprint submission for child care personnel, which  
294 shall comply with s. 435.12.

295 (c) ~~The department may grant exemptions from~~  
296 ~~disqualification from working with children or the~~  
297 ~~developmentally disabled as provided in s. 435.07.~~

298 ~~(d)~~ Minimum age requirements. Such minimum standards shall  
299 prohibit a person under the age of 21 from being the operator of  
300 a child care facility and a person under the age of 16 from  
301 being employed at such facility unless such person is under  
302 direct supervision and is not counted for the purposes of  
303 computing the personnel-to-child ratio.

304 (d)~~(e)~~ Minimum training requirements for child care  
305 personnel.

306 1. Such minimum standards for training shall ensure that  
307 all child care personnel take an approved 40-clock-hour  
308 introductory course in child care, which course covers at least  
309 the following topic areas:

310 a. State and local rules and regulations which govern child  
311 care.

312 b. Health, safety, and nutrition.

313 c. Identifying and reporting child abuse and neglect.

314 d. Child development, including typical and atypical  
315 language, cognitive, motor, social, and self-help skills  
316 development.

317 e. Observation of developmental behaviors, including using  
318 a checklist or other similar observation tools and techniques to  
319 determine the child's developmental age level.

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320 f. Specialized areas, including computer technology for  
321 professional and classroom use and early literacy and language  
322 development of children from birth to 5 years of age, as  
323 determined by the department, for owner-operators and child care  
324 personnel of a child care facility.

325 g. Developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum  
326 disorder and Down syndrome, and early identification, use of  
327 available state and local resources, classroom integration, and  
328 positive behavioral supports for children with developmental  
329 disabilities.

330

331 Within 90 days after employment, child care personnel shall  
332 begin training to meet the training requirements. Child care  
333 personnel shall successfully complete such training within 1  
334 year after the date on which the training began, as evidenced by  
335 passage of a competency examination. Successful completion of  
336 the 40-clock-hour introductory course shall articulate into  
337 community college credit in early childhood education, pursuant  
338 to ss. 1007.24 and 1007.25. Exemption from all or a portion of  
339 the required training shall be granted to child care personnel  
340 based upon educational credentials or passage of competency  
341 examinations. Child care personnel possessing a 2-year degree or  
342 higher that includes 6 college credit hours in early childhood  
343 development or child growth and development, or a child  
344 development associate credential or an equivalent state-approved  
345 child development associate credential, or a child development  
346 associate waiver certificate shall be automatically exempted  
347 from the training requirements in sub-subparagraphs b., d., and  
348 e.

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349           2. The introductory course in child care shall stress, to  
350 the extent possible, an interdisciplinary approach to the study  
351 of children.

352           3. The introductory course shall cover recognition and  
353 prevention of shaken baby syndrome; prevention of sudden infant  
354 death syndrome; recognition and care of infants and toddlers  
355 with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum  
356 disorder and Down syndrome; and early childhood brain  
357 development within the topic areas identified in this paragraph.

358           4. On an annual basis in order to further their child care  
359 skills and, if appropriate, administrative skills, child care  
360 personnel who have fulfilled the requirements for the child care  
361 training shall be required to take an additional 1 continuing  
362 education unit of approved inservice training, or 10 clock hours  
363 of equivalent training, as determined by the department.

364           5. Child care personnel shall be required to complete 0.5  
365 continuing education unit of approved training or 5 clock hours  
366 of equivalent training, as determined by the department, in  
367 early literacy and language development of children from birth  
368 to 5 years of age one time. The year that this training is  
369 completed, it shall fulfill the 0.5 continuing education unit or  
370 5 clock hours of the annual training required in subparagraph 4.

371           6. Procedures for ensuring the training of qualified child  
372 care professionals to provide training of child care personnel,  
373 including onsite training, shall be included in the minimum  
374 standards. It is recommended that the state community child care  
375 coordination agencies (central agencies) be contracted by the  
376 department to coordinate such training when possible. Other  
377 district educational resources, such as community colleges and

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378 career programs, can be designated in such areas where central  
379 agencies may not exist or are determined not to have the  
380 capability to meet the coordination requirements set forth by  
381 the department.

382 7. Training requirements shall not apply to certain  
383 occasional or part-time support staff, including, but not  
384 limited to, swimming instructors, piano teachers, dance  
385 instructors, and gymnastics instructors.

386 8. The child care operator shall be required to take basic  
387 training in serving children with disabilities within 5 years  
388 after employment, either as a part of the introductory training  
389 or the annual 8 hours of inservice training.

390 (e)~~(f)~~ Periodic health examinations.

391 (f)~~(g)~~ A credential for child care facility directors. The  
392 credential shall be a required minimum standard for licensing.

393

394 The department may grant limited exemptions authorizing a person  
395 to work in a specified role or with a specified population.

396 Section 7. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (3) of  
397 section 409.145, Florida Statutes, to read:

398 409.145 Care of children; "reasonable and prudent parent"  
399 standard.—The child welfare system of the department shall  
400 operate as a coordinated community-based system of care which  
401 empowers all caregivers for children in foster care to provide  
402 quality parenting, including approving or disapproving a child's  
403 participation in activities based on the caregiver's assessment  
404 using the "reasonable and prudent parent" standard.

405 (3) ROOM AND BOARD RATES.—

406 (e) By July 1, 2026, the department shall, in coordination

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407 with its providers, establish a methodology to determine daily  
408 room and board rates for children in out-of-home care who are  
409 placed in a residential child-caring agency as defined in s.  
410 409.175(2)(1). The methodology may produce different payment  
411 rates based on factors including, but not limited to, the acuity  
412 level of the child being placed and the geographic location of  
413 the residential child-caring agency. The department shall adopt  
414 rules to implement this paragraph.

415 Section 8. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5), subsection (7),  
416 and paragraph (e) of subsection (14) of section 409.175, Florida  
417 Statutes, are amended to read:

418 409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential  
419 child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies; public  
420 records exemption.—

421 (5) The department shall adopt and amend rules for the  
422 levels of licensed care associated with the licensure of family  
423 foster homes, residential child-caring agencies, and child-  
424 placing agencies. The rules may include criteria to approve  
425 waivers to licensing requirements when applying for a child-  
426 specific license.

427 (b) The requirements for licensure and operation of family  
428 foster homes, residential child-caring agencies, and child-  
429 placing agencies shall include:

430 1. The operation, conduct, and maintenance of these homes  
431 and agencies and the responsibility which they assume for  
432 children served and the evidence of need for that service.

433 2. The provision of food, clothing, educational  
434 opportunities, services, equipment, and individual supplies to  
435 assure the healthy physical, emotional, and mental development

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436 of the children served.

437 3. The appropriateness, safety, cleanliness, and general  
438 adequacy of the premises, including fire prevention and health  
439 standards, to provide for the physical comfort, care, and well-  
440 being of the children served.

441 4. The ratio of staff to children required to provide  
442 adequate care and supervision of the children served and, in the  
443 case of family foster homes, the maximum number of children in  
444 the home.

445 5. The good moral character based upon screening,  
446 education, training, and experience requirements for personnel  
447 and family foster homes.

448 ~~6. The department may grant exemptions from~~  
449 ~~disqualification from working with children or the~~  
450 ~~developmentally disabled as provided in s. 435.07.~~

451 ~~7.~~ The provision of preservice and inservice training for  
452 all foster parents and agency staff.

453 ~~7.8.~~ Satisfactory evidence of financial ability to provide  
454 care for the children in compliance with licensing requirements.

455 ~~8.9.~~ The maintenance by the agency of records pertaining to  
456 admission, progress, health, and discharge of children served,  
457 including written case plans and reports to the department.

458 ~~9.10.~~ The provision for parental involvement to encourage  
459 preservation and strengthening of a child's relationship with  
460 the family.

461 ~~10.11.~~ The transportation safety of children served.

462 ~~11.12.~~ The provisions for safeguarding the cultural,  
463 religious, and ethnic values of a child.

464 ~~12.13.~~ Provisions to safeguard the legal rights of children



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465 served.

466 ~~13.14.~~ Requiring signs to be conspicuously placed on the  
467 premises of facilities maintained by child-caring agencies to  
468 warn children of the dangers of human trafficking and to  
469 encourage the reporting of individuals observed attempting to  
470 engage in human trafficking activity. The signs must advise  
471 children to report concerns to the local law enforcement agency  
472 or the Department of Law Enforcement, specifying the appropriate  
473 telephone numbers used for such reports. The department shall  
474 specify, at a minimum, the content of the signs by rule.

475

476 The department may grant limited exemptions authorizing a person  
477 to work in a specified role or with a specified population.

478 (7) The department may extend a license expiration date  
479 once for a period of up to 90 ~~30~~ days to allow for the  
480 implementation of corrective measures. However, the department  
481 may not extend a license expiration date more than once during a  
482 licensure period.

483 (14)

484 (e)1. In addition to any other preservice training required  
485 by law, foster parents, as a condition of licensure, and agency  
486 staff must successfully complete preservice training related to  
487 human trafficking which must be uniform statewide and must  
488 include, but need not be limited to, all of the following:

489 a. Basic information on human trafficking, such as an  
490 understanding of relevant terminology, and the differences  
491 between sex trafficking and labor trafficking. ~~†~~

492 b. Factors and knowledge on identifying children at risk of  
493 human trafficking. ~~†~~ ~~and~~

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494 c. Steps that should be taken to prevent at-risk youths  
495 from becoming victims of human trafficking.

496 2. Foster parents, before licensure renewal, and agency  
497 staff, during each full year of employment, must complete  
498 inservice training related to human trafficking to satisfy the  
499 training requirement under subparagraph (5) (b) 6 ~~(5) (b) 7~~.

500 Section 9. Present paragraph (b) of subsection (3) of  
501 section 409.993, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph  
502 (c), a new paragraph (b) is added to that subsection, and  
503 paragraph (a) of that subsection is amended, to read:

504 409.993 Lead agencies and subcontractor liability.—

505 (3) SUBCONTRACTOR LIABILITY.—

506 (a) A subcontractor of an eligible community-based care  
507 lead agency that is a direct provider of foster care and related  
508 services to children and families, and its employees or  
509 officers, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) ~~(b)~~,  
510 must, as a part of its contract, obtain a minimum of \$1 million  
511 per occurrence with a policy period aggregate limit of \$3  
512 million in general liability insurance coverage. The  
513 subcontractor of a lead agency must also require that staff who  
514 transport client children and families in their personal  
515 automobiles in order to carry out their job responsibilities  
516 obtain minimum bodily injury liability insurance in the amount  
517 of \$100,000 per person in any one automobile accident, and  
518 subject to such limits for each person, \$300,000 for all damages  
519 resulting from any one automobile accident, on their personal  
520 automobiles. In lieu of personal motor vehicle insurance, the  
521 subcontractor's casualty, liability, or motor vehicle insurance  
522 carrier may provide nonowned automobile liability coverage. This

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523 insurance provides liability insurance for automobiles that the  
524 subcontractor uses in connection with the subcontractor's  
525 business but does not own, lease, rent, or borrow. This coverage  
526 includes automobiles owned by the employees of the subcontractor  
527 or a member of the employee's household but only while the  
528 automobiles are used in connection with the subcontractor's  
529 business. The nonowned automobile coverage for the subcontractor  
530 applies as excess coverage over any other collectible insurance.  
531 The personal automobile policy for the employee of the  
532 subcontractor shall be primary insurance, and the nonowned  
533 automobile coverage of the subcontractor acts as excess  
534 insurance to the primary insurance. The subcontractor shall  
535 provide a minimum limit of \$1 million in nonowned automobile  
536 coverage. In a tort action brought against such subcontractor or  
537 employee, net economic damages shall be limited to \$2 million  
538 per liability claim and \$200,000 per automobile claim,  
539 including, but not limited to, past and future medical expenses,  
540 wage loss, and loss of earning capacity, offset by any  
541 collateral source payment paid or payable. In a tort action  
542 brought against such subcontractor, noneconomic damages shall be  
543 limited to \$400,000 per claim. A claims bill may be brought on  
544 behalf of a claimant pursuant to s. 768.28 for any amount  
545 exceeding the limits specified in this paragraph. Any offset of  
546 collateral source payments made as of the date of the settlement  
547 or judgment shall be in accordance with s. 768.76.

548 (b) A subcontractor of a lead agency that is a direct  
549 provider of foster care and related services is not liable for  
550 the acts or omissions of the lead agency; the department; or the  
551 officers, agents, or employees of the lead agency or the

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552 department. Any provision in a contract between a subcontractor  
553 and a lead agency which is in conflict with this paragraph is  
554 void and unenforceable.

555 Section 10. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (20) of  
556 section 553.73, Florida Statutes, to read:

557 553.73 Florida Building Code.—

558 (20) The Florida Building Commission may not:

559 (c) Mandate the installation of fire sprinklers or a fire  
560 suppression system in a residential child-caring agency licensed  
561 by the Department of Children and Families under s. 409.175  
562 which operates in a single-family residential property that is  
563 licensed for a capacity of five or fewer children who are  
564 unrelated to the licensee.

565 Section 11. Subsection (12) is added to section 633.208,  
566 Florida Statutes, to read:

567 633.208 Minimum firesafety standards.—

568 (12) Notwithstanding subsection (8), a residential child-  
569 caring agency licensed by the Department of Children and  
570 Families under s. 409.175 which operates in a single-family  
571 residential property that is licensed for a capacity of five or  
572 fewer children who are unrelated to the licensee is not required  
573 to install fire sprinklers or a fire suppression system as long  
574 as the licensee meets the requirements for portable fire  
575 extinguishers, fire alarms, and smoke detectors under this  
576 chapter.

577 Section 12. Subsection (3) of section 937.0201, Florida  
578 Statutes, is amended to read:

579 937.0201 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:

580 (3) "Missing child" means a person younger than 18 years of

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581 age whose temporary or permanent residence is in, or is believed  
582 to be in, this state, whose location has not been determined,  
583 and who has been reported as missing to a law enforcement  
584 agency. The term includes a child who is the subject of a court  
585 order to take the child into the custody of the Department of  
586 Children and Families.

587 Section 13. Subsection (3) of section 937.021, Florida  
588 Statutes, is amended to read:

589 937.021 Missing child and missing adult reports.—

590 (3) A report that a child or adult is missing must be  
591 accepted by and filed with the law enforcement agency having  
592 jurisdiction in the county or municipality in which the child or  
593 adult was last seen. The filing and acceptance of the report  
594 imposes the duties specified in this section upon the law  
595 enforcement agency receiving the report. This subsection does  
596 not preclude a law enforcement agency from accepting a missing  
597 child or missing adult report when agency jurisdiction cannot be  
598 determined. If agency jurisdiction cannot be determined for  
599 cases in which there is a child who is the subject of a court  
600 order to take the child into the custody of the Department of  
601 Children and Families, the sheriff's office of the county in  
602 which the court order was entered must take jurisdiction.

603 Section 14. Section 402.30501, Florida Statutes, is amended  
604 to read:

605 402.30501 Modification of introductory child care course  
606 for community college credit authorized.—The Department of  
607 Children and Families may modify the 40-clock-hour introductory  
608 course in child care under s. 402.305 or s. 402.3131 to meet the  
609 requirements of articulating the course to community college

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610 credit. Any modification must continue to provide that the  
611 course satisfies the requirements of s. 402.305(2)(d) ~~s.~~  
612 ~~402.305(2)(e)~~.

613 Section 15. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 1002.57,  
614 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

615 1002.57 Prekindergarten director credential.—

616 (3) The prekindergarten director credential must meet or  
617 exceed the requirements of the Department of Children and  
618 Families for the child care facility director credential under  
619 s. 402.305(2)(f) ~~s. 402.305(2)(g)~~, and successful completion of  
620 the prekindergarten director credential satisfies these  
621 requirements for the child care facility director credential.

622 (4) The department shall, to the maximum extent  
623 practicable, award credit to a person who successfully completes  
624 the child care facility director credential under s.  
625 402.305(2)(f) ~~s. 402.305(2)(g)~~ for those requirements of the  
626 prekindergarten director credential which are duplicative of  
627 requirements for the child care facility director credential.

628 Section 16. Subsection (1) of section 1002.59, Florida  
629 Statutes, is amended to read:

630 1002.59 Emergent literacy and performance standards  
631 training courses.—

632 (1) The department, in collaboration with the Just Read,  
633 Florida! Office, shall adopt minimum standards for courses in  
634 emergent literacy for prekindergarten instructors. Each course  
635 must consist of 5 clock hours and provide instruction in  
636 strategies and techniques to address the age-appropriate  
637 progress of prekindergarten students in developing emergent  
638 literacy skills, including oral communication, knowledge of

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639 print and letters, phonological and phonemic awareness,  
640 vocabulary and comprehension development, and foundational  
641 background knowledge designed to correlate with the content that  
642 students will encounter in grades K-12, consistent with the  
643 evidence-based content and strategies grounded in the science of  
644 reading identified pursuant to s. 1001.215(7). The course  
645 standards must be reviewed as part of any review of subject  
646 coverage or endorsement requirements in the elementary, reading,  
647 and exceptional student educational areas conducted pursuant to  
648 s. 1012.586. Each course must also provide resources containing  
649 strategies that allow students with disabilities and other  
650 special needs to derive maximum benefit from the Voluntary  
651 Prekindergarten Education Program. Successful completion of an  
652 emergent literacy training course approved under this section  
653 satisfies requirements for approved training in early literacy  
654 and language development under ss. 402.305(2)(d)5. ~~ss.~~  
655 ~~402.305(2)(e)5.~~, 402.313(6), and 402.3131(5).

656 Section 17. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.