

CHAPTER 2023-178

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 664

An act relating to contracts entered into by the Department of Children and Families; amending s. 409.996, F.S.; revising requirements for contracts between the department and lead agencies; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Present paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of section 409.996, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (h), and new paragraph (f) and paragraph (g) are added to that subsection, to read:

409.996 Duties of the Department of Children and Families.—The department shall contract for the delivery, administration, or management of care for children in the child protection and child welfare system. In doing so, the department retains responsibility for the quality of contracted services and programs and shall ensure that, at a minimum, services are delivered in accordance with applicable federal and state statutes and regulations and the performance standards and metrics specified in the strategic plan created under s. 20.19(1).

(1) The department shall enter into contracts with lead agencies for the performance of the duties by the lead agencies established in s. 409.988. At a minimum, the contracts must do all of the following:

(f) Require lead agencies to annually provide written and published operating procedures that detail timelines and procedures to maximize the use of concurrent case planning, minimize the time to complete preliminary and final adoptive home studies, streamline data entry into the statewide child welfare information system, and reduce time to permanency.

(g) Require lead agencies to gather all information to complete the requirements for the child-specific section of the unified home study, excluding information related to any prospective caregiver, and enter that data into the child welfare information system of record no later than 90 days after the filing of a petition for termination of parental rights.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor June 2, 2023.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 2, 2023.