

CHAPTER 2025-196

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 584

An act relating to young adult housing support; amending s. 409.1452, F.S.; requiring each Florida College System institution and state university to develop plans for prioritizing the placement of certain students; requiring a Florida College System institution or state university to provide certain students with first priority for housing and work-study opportunities under certain circumstances; prohibiting Florida College System institutions and state universities from requiring that certain students have a cosigner or guarantor; creating s. 409.14525, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and Families, community-based care lead agencies, and housing authorities to take any action required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to administer the federal Foster Youth to Independence initiative and other federal programs and vouchers; requiring the department, community-based care lead agencies, and certain subcontracted service providers to document certain actions; providing applicability; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to conduct a study of the barriers to housing faced by young adults who are homeless or were formerly in foster care; requiring OPPAGA to consult with certain entities in conducting the study; requiring OPPAGA to provide a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a certain date; providing an effective date.

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

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

(4) Each Florida College System institution and state university shall, in consultation with the State Office on Homelessness within the Department of Children and Families, develop plans for prioritizing the placement of students who are or were formerly in foster care and those experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness, including, but not limited to, students eligible for a tuition and fee exemption under s.

1009.25(1)(c)1.-4. or (e), in residence halls and dormitory residences owned by the institution or university. The Office of Continuing Care established under s. 414.56 is responsible for determining whether a student is or was formerly in foster care. Each Florida College System institution and state university is responsible for determining whether a student is eligible for a tuition or fee exemption under s. 1009.25(1)(e).

(5) If a Florida College System institution or state university implements a priority system for the assignment of students to or the award of any of the following, the institution or university must provide students eligible for the tuition and fee exemption under s. 1009.25(1)(c)1.-4. or (e) with first priority:

- (a) Institution-operated or university-operated housing.
- (b) Year-round housing.
- (c) Work-study opportunities.

(6) Florida College System institutions and state universities may not require students to have a cosigner or guarantor to obtain housing if the student receives housing support under s. 409.1451(2) or (3) or is in care under s. 39.6251.

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

409.14525 Housing support for young adults; federal housing vouchers. The department, community-based care lead agencies, and housing authorities created under s. 421.04 shall take any action required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to administer the federal Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative and other federal programs and vouchers offered by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, which may include the department, the community-based care lead agencies, and their subcontractors doing any of the following:

- (1) Entering into a memorandum of understanding or a letter of intent with all of the housing authorities within their service areas.
- (2) Providing or securing supportive services for participating youth for the duration of the FYI initiative voucher.
- (3) Providing a written certification to the housing authority verifying the youth's child welfare history.
- (4) Identifying youth eligible for an FYI initiative voucher within the community-based care lead agency's caseload and communicating their eligibility to the youth.

The department, community-based care lead agencies, and their subcontracted service providers that administer housing funds for young adults in

the child welfare system shall document actions taken to facilitate a young adult's acquisition of a residential lease, which may include, but are not limited to, providing assurances to a landlord that funding will be provided on a monthly basis through a housing voucher. This section applies to entities that serve young adults receiving postsecondary educational services and support or aftercare services under s. 409.1451 or young adults receiving continuing care under s. 39.6251.

Section 3. (1) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) shall conduct a study of the barriers that young adults who are homeless or were formerly in foster care face when trying to obtain housing. The study must include recommendations for overcoming those barriers.

(2) In conducting the study, OPPAGA shall consult with the Department of Children and Families, the Board of Governors of the State University System, the Florida College System, the Department of Commerce, public housing authorities, affected young adults, and other stakeholders.

(3) OPPAGA must issue its findings by December 1, 2026, in a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor June 27, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 27, 2025.