

CHAPTER 2025-63

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 989

An act relating to licensure of family foster homes; amending s. 409.175, F.S.; requiring the Department of Children and Families to adopt rules to streamline the licensure application process for licensed foster parents who relocate within this state; requiring such rules to include priority review of applications, expedited home studies and background checks, and recognition of prior foster parent training coursework; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (i) of subsection (6) of section 409.175, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(6)

(i)¹. Upon determination that the applicant meets the state minimum licensing requirements and has obtained a letter from a community-based care lead agency which indicates that the family foster home meets the criteria established by the lead agency, the department shall issue a license without charge to a specific person or agency at a specific location. A license may be issued if all the screening materials have been timely submitted; however, a license may not be issued or renewed if any person at the home or agency has failed the required screening. The license is nontransferable. A copy of the license shall be displayed in a conspicuous place. Except as provided in paragraph (k), the license is valid for 1 year from the date of issuance, unless the license is suspended or revoked by the department or is voluntarily surrendered by the licensee. The license is the property of the department.

2. The department shall adopt rules to streamline the licensure application process for a licensed foster parent who is in good standing and relocates within this state. These rules must include, but are not limited to, rules concerning priority review of applications, expedited home studies and background checks, and recognition of prior foster parent training coursework.

Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor May 21, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 21, 2025.