HB 631 2024

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to aftercare services under the Road-to-Independence Program; amending s. 409.1451, F.S.; revising the eligibility requirements for a young adult to receive aftercare services; limiting the aftercare services available to young adults under certain circumstances; authorizing the Department of Children and Families to distribute federal funds to young adults, regardless of their eligibility, under certain circumstances; providing an effective date.

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

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Section 1. Subsection (11) of section 409.1451, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (12), paragraph (a) of subsection (3) is amended, and a new subsection (11) is added to that section, to read:

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409.1451 The Road-to-Independence Program. -

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(3) AFTERCARE SERVICES.—

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(a) 1. Aftercare services are available to a young adult who has reached 18 years of age but is not yet 23 years of age who, having been placed by a court pursuant to chapter 39, has lived in out-of-home care for at least 6 months after he or she turned 14 years of age. A young adult who receives services and support under subsection (2) or s. 39.6251 is only eligible for

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aftercare services that are not otherwise covered or provided under subsection (2) or s. 39.6251. and is:

a. Not in foster care.

- b. Temporarily not receiving financial assistance under subsection (2) to pursue postsecondary education.
- 2. Subject to available funding, aftercare services as specified in subparagraph (b)8. are also available to a young adult who is between the ages of 18 and 22, is receiving financial assistance under subsection (2), is experiencing an emergency situation, and whose resources are insufficient to meet the emergency situation. Such assistance shall be in addition to any amount specified in paragraph (2)(b).
- (11) Notwithstanding the eligibility criteria or availability of services and support under subsections (2) and (3), the department may distribute federal funds to all young adults deemed eligible by the funding source in the event of a state of emergency declared by executive order or proclamation of the Governor pursuant to chapter 252 or the President of the United States.
  - Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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