# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

**BILL #:** PCB HCAS 12-03 Department of Children & Family Services
**SPONSOR(S):** Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee
**TIED BILLS:** **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:**

| REFERENCE | ACTION | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF |
|---|---|---|---|
| Orig. Comm.: Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee | 9 Y, 5 N | Fontaine | Pridgeon |

## SUMMARY ANALYSIS


The bill amends Florida Statutes to implement budgetary changes contained in the proposed General Appropriations Act (GAA) for Fiscal Year 2012-13. The bill:

> Amends Section 409.1451, Florida Statutes, by changing the maximum age of eligibility from not yet 23 years old to not yet 21 years old for independent living transition services and for the Road-to-Independence award for former foster children. Independent living transition services and the Road-to-Independence award provide services and a monthly stipend to assist former foster children in obtaining life skills and education or vocational training.

The House proposed GAA for Fiscal Year 2012-13 reduces $9,214,663 from recurring General Revenue funds and $2,465,646 from recurring Tobacco Settlement Trust Funds by changing the maximum age of eligibility from not yet 23 years old to not yet 21 years old for independent living transition services.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2012.

## FULL ANALYSIS

## I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Section 409.1451, Florida Statutes, establishes a framework through which independent living transition services are provided to youth in foster care and young adults who were formerly in foster care. These services are designed to assist youth in obtaining life skills training considered necessary to become self-sufficient, live independently, and maintain employment. The framework recognizes educational or vocational skills as a component of achieving independent living and creates the Road-to-Independence Program for young adults formerly in foster care. This program provides a financial award to young adults, having reached 18 years of age but not yet 23 years of age, and who are attending a postsecondary education institution. This program represents the majority of expenditure for independent living transition services.

For Fiscal Year 2011-12, the Legislature appropriated $29.5 million within the Department of Children and Family Services for independent living transition services. This appropriation includes $8.2 million of federal funds from the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Education and Training Voucher funds, and $21.3 million in state funds. Of this appropriation, $11.7 million is expected to be allocated for independent living transition services and Road-to-Independence awards for young adults ages 21 and 22; financial awards provided through the Road-to-Independence Program represent $9.4 million, or 81 percent, of this allocation. Section 409.1451(5)(b)1, F.S., provides the award amount be based on the young adult's living and educational needs, but no more than the amount that could be earned by working 40 hours per week at a job paying the federal minimum wage. During FY 2011-12, the department estimates the current Road-to-Independence Program will serve 2,610 young adults, ages 18 through 22, at an average, monthly award amount of $1,109.

This bill modifies eligibility criteria to receive independent living transition services and Road-to-Independence awards by changing the maximum eligible age from not yet 23 years old to not yet 21 years old. This modification is expected to decrease the number of Road-to-Independence awards provided to this age group by 657, for a total of 1,953 for ages 18 to not yet 21 during FY 2012-13. This modification will decrease funds required to support independent living transition services by $11.7 million, and is reflected in the House proposed GAA for FY 2012-13.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

**Section 1.** This section amends Section 409.1451, Florida Statutes, relating to eligibility criteria for independent living transition services.

**Section 2.** This section provides an effective date.

## II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

   This bill does not appear to impact state government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

   This bill has a recurring fiscal impact to state government by decreasing expenditure of state funds in the total amount of $11,680,309 ($9,214,663 from the General Revenue Fund and $2,465,646 from the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund).

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

   This bill does not appear to impact local government revenues.

2. Expenditures:

   This bill does not appear to impact local government expenditures.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

This bill does not appear to impact the private sector.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

## III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

   None.

2. Other:

   None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

## IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES