

SENATE BILL NO. 129

BY SENATORS GATTI, BARROW, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, ERDEY, LUNEAU, MILLS, PRICE AND WALSWORTH AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, BACALA, BAGLEY, BERTHELOT, BRASS, CARMODY, STEVE CARTER, CONNICK, COX, CREWS, DAVIS, JIMMY HARRIS, HAVARD, HENRY, HENSGENS, HOFFMANN, HORTON, HOWARD, HUNTER, JACKSON, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, JOHNSON, LEGER, MACK, MARINO, MCFARLAND, NORTON, PIERRE, POPE, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, SCHEXNAYDER, SMITH, STOKES, TALBOT AND ZERINGUE

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 46:1403.1 and to enact R.S. 46:286.24, relative to foster care; to
3 provide relative to education; to provide that a child may remain in foster care until
4 he graduates from high school under certain circumstances; to provide for benefits
5 and services relative to the foster care program; to provide terms, conditions, and
6 requirements; to provide for the effective date; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 46:1403.1 is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 46:286.24 is
9 hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 **§286.24. Foster care; high school student**

11 **A. In the event funds are made available for this purpose, the**
12 **Department of Children and Family Services shall continue to provide to a**
13 **person in foster care and to the person's foster parents all benefits and services**
14 **of the department's foster care program after the person's eighteenth birthday**
15 **if the person is a full-time high school student or in the process of receiving an**
16 **equivalent credential, until the person's high school graduation or twenty-first**
17 **birthday, whichever occurs first, upon the written consent of the person and**
18 **foster parents receiving the benefits and services.**

19 **B. Acceptance of these benefits and services shall in no way deprive the**
20 **person in foster care of any rights or obligations conferred by attaining the age**
21 **of majority.**

