

## DIGEST

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SB 129 Reengrossed

2018 Regular Session

Gatti

Proposed law provides that, in the event funds are made available, a person in foster care and the person's foster parents shall continue to receive all benefits and services of the foster care program after the person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, if the person is a full-time high school student or in the process of receiving an equivalent credential until the person's high school graduation or 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, whichever comes first.

Present law provides that a child residing in a residential home may stay at that home until his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday to complete any educational course he has begun while a resident of the facility. Proposed law adds authorization that a child housed in a residential home or in foster care may stay at such home or in foster care until his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday to complete any educational course that he began while a resident of the facility.

Proposed law provides that acceptance of these benefits shall not deprive the person in foster care of any rights or obligations conferred by attaining the age of majority.

Proposed law specifies that the benefits and services provided shall not impose any obligation of reimbursement on the recipients.

Proposed law specifies that the Dept. of Children and Family Services shall notify all foster children and their foster parents or other custodians in writing of the availability of these benefits and services upon the child's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, and every 90 days thereafter until the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, unless the foster child and foster parents or other custodians have already consented in writing to participate.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 46:1403.1; Adds R.S. 46:286.24)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Provides that a person in foster care and the person's foster parents shall continue to receive all benefits and services of the foster care program after the person's 18th birthday, if the person is a full-time high school student until the person's high school graduation or 21st birthday, whichever comes first.
2. Provides that acceptance of these benefits shall not deprive the person in foster care of any rights or obligations conferred by attaining the age of majority.
3. Specifies that the benefits and services provided shall not impose any obligation of reimbursement on the recipients.
4. Specifies that the Department of Children and Family Services shall notify all foster children and their foster parents or other custodians in writing of the availability of these benefits and services upon the child's 17th birthday, and every ninety days thereafter until the child's 18th birthday, unless the foster child and foster parents or other custodians have already consented in writing to participate.

5. Applies a contingency that this Act shall take effect and become operative if and when Senate Bill No. 555 of the 2018 Regular Session of the Legislature is enacted into law and becomes effective.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Health and Welfare to the reengrossed bill:

1. Adds that a person in foster care and the person's foster parents shall continue to receive all benefits and services of the foster care program after the person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, if the person is a full-time high school student or in the process of receiving an equivalent credential until the person's high school graduation or 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, whichever comes first.
2. Adds that a child housed in a residential home or in foster care may stay at such home or in foster care until his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday to complete any educational course that he began at such facility.

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Appropriations to the reengrossed bill:

1. Delete the contingency effectiveness of proposed law to the enactment of SB No. 555 of the 2018 R.S.
2. Make proposed law subject to the availability of funding.