SENATE BILL NO. 129

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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

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 provide relative to education; to provide that a child may remain in foster care until 3 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 requirements; to provide for the effective date; and to provide for related matters. 6 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 person in foster care and to the person's foster parents all benefits and services 13 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 equivalent credential, until the person's high school graduation or twenty-first 16 birthday, whichever occurs first, upon the written consent of the person and 17 18 foster parents receiving the benefits and services. 19 B. Acceptance of these benefits and services shall in no way deprive the person in foster care of any rights or obligations conferred by attaining the age 20 21 of majority.

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1	C. The benefits and services provided under this Section shall impose no
2	obligation of reimbursement upon the recipients.
3	D. The department shall notify all foster children and their foster
4	parents or other custodians in writing of the availability of these benefits and
5	services at the foster child's seventeenth birthday, and every ninety days
6	thereafter until the child's eighteenth birthday, unless the foster child and foster
7	parents or other custodians have already consented in writing to participating
8	in this program.
9	* * *
10	§1403.1. Extended stay for completion of educational courses or other programs
11	Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, including but not
12	limited to R.S. 46:1403(A)(1), a child housed at a residential home or in foster care,
13	may stay at such home or in foster care until his twenty-first birthday to complete
14	any educational course that he began at such facility, or while in foster care,
15	including but not limited to a General Education Development course, and any other
16	program offered by the residential home.
17	Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
18	signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
19	by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
20	vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
21	effective on the day following such approval.
	PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
	PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
	SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
	SI EAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REFRESENTATIVES
	GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA
	GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA
	APPROVED: