

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Children and Family Services Act is amended
5 by adding Sections 39.3 and 42 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 505/39.3)

7 Sec. 39.3. Suggestion boxes. The Department must place in
8 each residential treatment center, group home, shelter, and
9 transitional living arrangement that accepts youth in care for
10 placement by the Department a locked suggestion box into which
11 residents may place comments and concerns to be addressed by
12 the Department. Only employees of the Department shall have
13 access to the contents of the locked suggestion boxes. An
14 employee of the Department must check the locked suggestion
15 boxes at least once per week. The Department shall submit a
16 report to the General Assembly each year outlining the issues
17 and concerns submitted to the locked suggestion box and the
18 solution to each issue and concern.

19 (Source: P.A. 99-342, eff. 8-11-15; 100-159, eff. 8-18-17.)

20 (20 ILCS 505/42 new)

21 Sec. 42. Foster care survey. The Department, in
22 coordination with the Foster Care Alumni of America Illinois

1 Chapter, the School of Social Work at the University of
2 Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the Department's Statewide
3 Youth Advisory Board, shall develop and process a standardized
4 survey to gather feedback from children who are aging out of
5 foster care and from children who have transitioned out of the
6 foster care system. The survey shall include requests for
7 information regarding the children's experience with and
8 opinion of State foster care services, the children's
9 recommendations for improvement of such services, the amount of
10 time the children spent in the foster care system, and any
11 other information deemed relevant by the Department. After the
12 survey is created the Department shall circulate the survey to
13 all youth participating in transitional living programs,
14 independent living programs, or Youth in College and to all
15 youth receiving scholarships or tuition waivers under the DCFS
16 Scholarship Program. The Department shall conduct the survey
17 every 5 years. At the completion of each survey, the
18 Department, in coordination with the Foster Care Alumni of
19 America Illinois Chapter, the School of Social Work at the
20 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and the
21 Department's Statewide Youth Advisory Board, shall submit a
22 report with a detailed review of the survey results to the
23 Governor and the General Assembly. The first report shall be
24 submitted no later than December 1, 2021 and every 5 years
25 thereafter.