1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to restitution for juvenile offenses; 3 amending s. 985.437, F.S.; requiring a child's parent or quardian to be responsible for restitution for 4 5 damage or loss caused by the child's offense; 6 authorizing the court to establish a payment plan in 7 certain circumstances; requiring notification to the 8 court if a payment plan is not followed; conforming 9 provisions to changes made by the act; amending s. 10 985.513, F.S.; revising provisions concerning when the 11 child's parent or guardian may be absolved of 12 liability for restitution in certain circumstances; providing that the Department of Children and 13 14 Families, foster parents, and specified facilities and 15 agencies are not considered parents or guardians for 16 purposes of restitution; providing an effective date. 17 18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 19 20 Subsection (5) of section 985.437, Florida Section 1. 21 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (4), and subsections (2) 22 and (3) and present subsection (4) of that section are amended, 23 to read: 985.437 Restitution.-24

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Regardless of whether adjudication is imposed or

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withheld, if the court orders restitution, the court shall may order the child and the child's parent or guardian, as provided under s. 985.513, to make restitution in money, through a promissory note signed by the child and cosigned by the child's parent or guardian, or in kind for any damage or loss caused by the child's offense in a reasonable amount or manner to be determined by the court. When restitution is ordered by the court, the amount of restitution may not exceed an amount the child and the child's parent or guardian could reasonably be expected to pay or make. If the child and the child's parent or guardian are unable to make restitution in kind or pay the restitution in one lump sum, the court may establish a payment plan based on the child's and the child's parent or guardian's ability to pay the restitution amount.

- and dispensing agent. In such case, the court shall order the child or the child's parent or guardian to pay to the office of the clerk of the circuit court an amount not to exceed the actual cost incurred by the clerk as a result of receiving and dispensing restitution payments. The clerk shall notify the court if restitution is not made or if a restitution payment plan is not followed, and the court shall take any further action that is necessary against the child or the child's parent or guardian.
 - (4) A finding by the court, after a hearing, that the

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parent or guardian has made diligent and good faith efforts to prevent the child from engaging in delinquent acts absolves the parent or guardian of liability for restitution under this section.

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 985.513, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

985.513 Powers of the court over parent or guardian at disposition.—

- withheld, by an order stating the facts upon which a determination of a sanction and rehabilitative program was made at a disposition hearing, the court that has jurisdiction over a an adjudicated delinquent child may, by an order stating the facts upon which a determination of a sanction and rehabilitative program was made at the disposition hearing:
- (a) May order the child's parent or guardian, together with the child, to render community service in a public service program or to participate in a community work project. In addition to the sanctions imposed on the child, the court may order the child's parent or guardian to perform community service if the court finds that the parent or guardian did not make a diligent and good faith effort to prevent the child from engaging in delinquent acts.
- (b) $\underline{\text{May}}$ order the $\underline{\text{child's}}$ parent or guardian to make restitution in money or in kind for any damage or loss caused by

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the child's offense.

- (c) Must The court may also require the child's parent or legal guardian to be responsible for any restitution ordered against the child, as provided under s. 985.437. The court shall determine a reasonable amount or manner of restitution, and payment shall be made to the clerk of the circuit court as provided in s. 985.437. The court may retain jurisdiction, as provided under s. 985.0301, over the child and the child's parent or legal guardian whom the court has ordered to pay restitution until the restitution order is satisfied or the court orders otherwise.
- 1. The child's parent or guardian may be absolved of liability for restitution ordered under this chapter if:
- a. After a hearing, the court finds that it is the child's first referral to the delinquency system and that the child's parent or guardian has made diligent and good faith efforts to prevent the child from engaging in delinquent acts;
- b. The victim entitled to restitution is the child's parent or guardian; or
- c. The parent or guardian did not, at any time relevant to the proceedings under this chapter, have custody of or parental responsibility for the child.
- 2. For purposes of this section, the Department of Children and Families, a foster parent with whom the child is placed, the community-based care lead agency supervising the

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placement of the child pursuant to a contract with the
Department of Children and Families, or a facility licensed or
registered under s. 409.175 or s. 409.176 is not considered a
parent or guardian responsible for restitution for the
delinquent acts of a child who is found to be dependent as
defined in s. 39.01.
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