



THE FLORIDA SENATE
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Home Away From Home Tax Credit Supports Families With Critically Ill Children
Bill by Senator Calatayud encourages public private partnerships that provide family housing while a child is receiving care and treatment

Tallahassee—The Florida Senate Committee on Health Policy, chaired by Senator Collen Burton (R-Lakeland), today passed Senate Bill (SB) 182, Tax Credits for Charitable Contributions, by Senator Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami). The bill creates the Home Away From Home Tax Credit, which provides tax credits to Florida businesses for contributing to charitable organizations that house families of critically ill children at little or no cost to the family while traveling so the child can receive care.

“When a family is dealing with a diagnosis that requires travel and treatment away from home, expenses can add up so quickly. The last thing we want is for families to endure prolonged separations or incur additional debts to facilitate housing near a treatment facility,” said Senator Calatayud. “This bill is about keeping families together, comforting and supporting a child who is fighting for his or her life. Through this legislation we are offering businesses the chance to partner with charitable organizations to build or expand housing for families in these difficult circumstances.”

“Watching your child suffer is just about the hardest thing I can imagine. It’s heartbreaking to hear from families who have to make difficult choices about housing, travel and other ancillary costs associated with prolonged medical treatment for a sick child. We want to stand with these families as they guide their children through difficult circumstances,” said Senate President Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula).

The bill specifies requirements for an eligible charitable organization, which must be a 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code, must be a Florida entity with its principal office in Florida, and must house families of critically ill children at de minimis to no cost to the family while the child receives treatment.

The eligible charitable organization must expend 100 percent of any contributions received for the expansion of current structures or the construction of new facilities to comfort and support families, thereby removing the additional burden of lodging costs for those already experiencing significant medical expenses.

The bill also specifies procedures and requirements for eligible charitable organizations to apply with the Florida Department of Health (DOH), requires the organizations to conduct criminal history background screening on all volunteers and staff working directly with children in any program funded with contributions, and requires the organizations to submit annual audit reports to the Florida Department of Health.

The tax credit is capped at \$2.5 million in each state fiscal year.

For more information, please visit www.FLSenate.gov.

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