

By the Committee on Children, Families and Seniors and  
Senators Kurth, Myers, McKay, Brown-Waite, Turner, Klein,  
Latvala, Harris, Rossin and Dyer

300-1773A-98

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to children and families;  
3           creating s. 383.145, F.S.; creating the Healthy  
4           Families Florida program; providing legislative  
5           findings and intent; providing purpose;  
6           requiring integrated community-based delivery  
7           of services; specifying program requirements;  
8           providing responsibilities of the Department of  
9           Health and the Department of Children and  
10          Family Services; providing for development,  
11          implementation, and administration of the  
12          program; establishing the Healthy Families  
13          Florida Statewide Board; specifying criteria  
14          for community program grant funding; requiring  
15          collaboration with existing community boards,  
16          coalitions, providers, and planning groups;  
17          authorizing contracts for training and  
18          evaluation; providing for quality assurance;  
19          providing for application for a federal waiver;  
20          providing an effective date.

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22 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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24           Section 1. Section 383.145, Florida Statutes, is  
25 created to read:

26           383.145 The Healthy Families Florida program.--There  
27 is created within available resources the Healthy Families  
28 Florida program, a voluntary program for newborn children and  
29 their families.

30           (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.--  
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1           (a) The Legislature finds that family well-being is  
2 critical to a child's health and development, that parenting  
3 is a difficult responsibility, and that most of the assistance  
4 available to Florida's families occurs after there is a  
5 problem, and often provides "too little, too late." Research  
6 has shown that comprehensive early home visitation programs  
7 prevent child abuse, help develop positive parent-child  
8 interactions, and help avoid future social problems. In  
9 addition to addressing child abuse, such programs help to  
10 ensure that families' social and medical needs are met and  
11 that children are ready for success in school. The Legislature  
12 finds that Florida needs broad implementation of such a  
13 program to help identify families who need and desire  
14 assistance in establishing healthy relationships and  
15 environments for their children.

16           (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to establish  
17 the Healthy Families Florida program as a collaborative effort  
18 that builds on existing community-based home visiting and  
19 family support resources and will not duplicate the existing  
20 services. It is the further intent of the Legislature that  
21 the program provide the needed intensity and duration of  
22 services that extend beyond those available through Florida's  
23 Healthy Start initiative. By creating a Healthy Families  
24 Florida program, a major gap in the existing continuum of  
25 early childhood prevention and assistance services will be  
26 filled.

27           (2) PURPOSE.--The purpose of the program is to  
28 strengthen families; promote healthy childhood growth and  
29 development; improve childhood immunization rates and  
30 well-child care; improve child health outcomes; improve school  
31 readiness; increase family self-sufficiency; increase the

1 involvement of both parents with their children; and reduce  
2 the incidence of child abuse and neglect, through a primary  
3 prevention approach that offers home visits and linkages to  
4 family supports for families and their newborn children and  
5 continues until the children reach 5 years of age.

6 (3) DELIVERY OF SERVICES.--Service delivery under the  
7 program shall be community-based and collaborative. Program  
8 services shall be integrated and coordinated with services  
9 provided under Florida's Healthy Start program and other home  
10 visiting and family support service delivery systems currently  
11 in place in Florida communities. Services shall be offered  
12 with the intensity and duration required to prevent child  
13 abuse and neglect and to improve child development and child  
14 health outcomes.

15 (4) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.--The program shall provide  
16 for intensive home visits and include the following critical  
17 elements of the Healthy Families America model:

18 (a) Initiation of services. This element provides for:

19 1. Initiation of services prenatally or at birth.

20 2. Use of a standardized assessment tool to

21 systematically identify those families most in need of  
22 services. Voluntary participation in this assessment must be  
23 clearly stated in the application and paperwork.

24 3. Offering services on a voluntary basis, and using  
25 positive, persistent outreach efforts to build family trust.

26 4. Working with family members to identify strengths  
27 and resources that can be mobilized to help resolve identified  
28 family concerns.

29 (b) Service content. This element provides for:  
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1           1. Offering services over the long term and  
2 intensively, with well-defined criteria for increasing or  
3 decreasing the intensity of the service.

4           2. Providing culturally competent services.

5           3. Providing services that focus on supporting parents  
6 and families, encouraging the interaction of both parents with  
7 their children, and enhancing the development of all children  
8 in the family, including reading skills and school readiness.

9           4. Linking families to medical providers to ensure  
10 optimal health and development of the children; timely  
11 childhood immunizations; well-child care that provides for  
12 developmental assessment and is consistent with the standards  
13 and periodicity schedules of Medicaid and the American Academy  
14 of Pediatrics; and additional services, as needed. Children  
15 who are eligible for Medicaid shall be referred for Early  
16 Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) services.

17           5. Providing families the opportunity to create  
18 neighborhood support systems to address mutual concerns and  
19 solve problems without external resources.

20           6. Incorporating specialized services to accommodate  
21 the needs of families with substance abuse problems. Staff  
22 trained in providing substance abuse services will work with  
23 these families to meet their unique needs. Linkages will be  
24 developed with existing community-based substance-abuse  
25 services.

26           (c) Selection and training of service providers. This  
27 element provides for:

28           1. Weighted caseloads of not greater than 25:1 overall  
29 and 15:1 for intensive services, for staff providing home  
30 visits, as specified in the Healthy Families America model.

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1           2. Selecting home visit providers based on the  
2 provider's interpersonal skills; knowledge of community  
3 resources; willingness to work with, or experience working  
4 with, culturally diverse communities and families; and job  
5 skills.

6           3. Ensuring that home visit providers have basic  
7 training in areas including, but not limited to: cultural  
8 competency, substance abuse, reporting child abuse, domestic  
9 violence, drug-exposed infants, child development, services  
10 available in the community, infant care and development, and  
11 parenting.

12           4. Ensuring that home visit providers have preservice  
13 and ongoing training that is specific to their job  
14 requirements.

15           5. Ensuring that home visit providers receive ongoing  
16 weekly reviews and direct and intensive supervision.

17           6. Ensuring that home visit providers are qualified  
18 community-based private, not-for-profit, or public  
19 organizations that are credentialed by, are in the process of  
20 being credentialed by, or have been granted affiliation with  
21 the Healthy Families America Initiative and have strong  
22 community support and the social and fiscal capacity to  
23 provide the service.

24           (5) HEALTHY FAMILIES FLORIDA ADVISORY COMMITTEE.--In  
25 order to gain the efficiencies, advocacy, and broadbased  
26 support of a public-private partnership, Healthy Families  
27 Florida shall be developed, implemented, and administered by  
28 The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida. The Department of  
29 Children and Family Services shall be the conduit of funds  
30 appropriated by the state to The Ounce of Prevention Fund of  
31 Florida for Healthy Families Florida. The Department of

1 Children and Family Services shall contract with The Ounce of  
2 Prevention Fund of Florida for purposes of developing,  
3 implementing, and administering the Healthy Families Florida  
4 program. There is created a Healthy Families Florida Advisory  
5 Committee, which shall assist and advise The Ounce of  
6 Prevention Fund of Florida and assure coordination and  
7 collaboration with appropriate state agencies and public and  
8 private organizations. The advisory committee shall operate  
9 under the auspices of The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida  
10 Board of Directors. The duties of the advisory committee  
11 include developing measurable outcomes consistent with the  
12 established outcomes of Healthy Families America, reviewing  
13 grant applications and recommending grant awards under this  
14 section to the Board of Directors of The Ounce of Prevention  
15 Fund of Florida, defining the scope of this program, and  
16 generally advising The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida on  
17 the development, implementation, and administration of this  
18 program. The Board of Directors of The Ounce of Prevention  
19 Fund of Florida has the final approval of grant awards and  
20 contracts but may consider only those applicants recommended  
21 by the advisory committee. The advisory committee shall  
22 consist of nine members, including the Secretary of Children  
23 and Family Services or the secretary's designee, the Secretary  
24 of Health or the secretary's designee, one representative of  
25 TEAM Florida, one representative of the Florida Coalition of  
26 Healthy Start Coalitions, two active board members of The  
27 Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, and two community  
28 representatives who have direct experience and significant  
29 knowledge of the Healthy Families program, one of whom is to  
30 be appointed by the President of the Senate and one of whom is  
31 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of

1 Representatives, and one representative of the Family Source,  
2 Inc.

3 (6) IMPLEMENTATION.--The Department of Children and  
4 Family Services shall contract with The Ounce of Prevention  
5 Fund of Florida to develop, implement, and maintain the  
6 Healthy Families Florida programs. This contract must be  
7 performance-based, including at a minimum the performance  
8 standards adopted by the Legislature, and must cover the  
9 expenditure of all funds appropriated for Healthy Families  
10 Florida other than funds appropriated to the department for a  
11 contract manager and for expenses incident to that position.  
12 The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida under this contractual  
13 agreement shall:

14 (a) Using the criteria set forth in this section,  
15 implement a community-based Healthy Families Florida program.

16 (b) Award community grants and determine requirements  
17 for matching funds. Community grants must be awarded in  
18 accordance with weighted criteria based on population  
19 demographics, factors associated with child abuse and neglect,  
20 and other appropriate criteria developed by the Healthy  
21 Families America or the advisory committee. Matching funds may  
22 be in-kind or cash as determined by the advisory committee  
23 with the approval of The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida  
24 Board of Directors.

25 (c) Develop a plan of implementation to equitably  
26 distribute funds.

27 (d) Require that the following criteria be used in  
28 selecting recipients of grant funds:

29 1. Each community must have a community-based lead  
30 entity for planning and implementing the Healthy Families  
31 program. This lead entity must demonstrate the support,

1 integration, and collaboration of existing boards, coalitions,  
2 planning groups, business, and consumers. These groups must  
3 include, but need not be limited to, the following, if locally  
4 established: Healthy Start coalitions, local healthy families  
5 steering committees, Success by Six, family preservation and  
6 support planning entities, health and human services boards,  
7 children's services councils, Head Start boards,  
8 prekindergarten early intervention councils, community child  
9 care coordinating agencies, school advisory councils,  
10 substance abuse and mental health services boards, juvenile  
11 justice councils, civic groups, business, and other nonprofit  
12 organizations.

13 2. Preference for grant awards must be given to  
14 existing community-based entities that have broad  
15 representation and have the fiscal and administrative capacity  
16 to implement the program.

17 3. Those community-based entities that have been  
18 granted affiliation with the Healthy Families America  
19 Initiative by the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse or  
20 have been trained by the Healthy Families America Initiative  
21 before July 1, 1998, and that meet the criteria set forth in  
22 this section must be given preference, during fiscal year  
23 1998-1999, for grant awards to fully serve their designated  
24 service area.

25 4. The Healthy Families Florida program must  
26 complement and coordinate with Healthy Start and other home  
27 visiting and family support programs.

28 5. One application per designated service delivery  
29 area is to be approved. A designated service area is a county.  
30 However, the advisory committee, with the approval of the  
31 Board of Directors of The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida,



1 may grant a waiver of the designated service area which  
2 results in reducing or enlarging the designated service area  
3 as long as all other criteria set forth in this section are  
4 met and there remains only one Healthy Families Florida  
5 provider within the new designated service area.

6 6. Each successful grant applicant must seek to be  
7 credentialed by Healthy Families of America. To continue  
8 qualifying for funding under this section, an entity must  
9 achieve these credentials within the specified deadlines  
10 articulated by Healthy Families America and must maintain the  
11 credentials in good standing for the duration of program  
12 operation.

13 7. Each applicant must agree to use a standardized  
14 assessment tool consistent with the Healthy Families America  
15 credentialing standards and approved by the advisory  
16 committee.

17 8. Each applicant must agree to provide outcome and  
18 performance data in the format and at the frequency specified  
19 by The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida.

20 9. Each applicant must identify local resources  
21 available for implementation.

22 10. Local assessment and planning for the program must  
23 be collaborative and must include representatives from the  
24 entities listed in subparagraph 1., if locally established.  
25 During the planning phase, these entities, and others as  
26 appropriate, shall participate in: a strength-based community  
27 assessment process that identifies existing home visiting and  
28 family support services and uses existing needs assessments;  
29 the grant application and the development of a local  
30 implementation plan for service delivery; and the

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1 determination and identification of local funds and resources  
2 that will support the implementation of the program.

3 11. Each applicant must show evidence that consumers  
4 and families have been involved in the planning and  
5 development of the grant application and support the Healthy  
6 Families Florida program in the designated service area  
7 identified in the grant application.

8 12. Implementation design must include service  
9 delivery strategies that, when appropriate, involve both  
10 parents when they have shared parental responsibility,  
11 regardless of residential custody arrangements.

12 13. Each community must develop mechanisms to identify  
13 and refer at-risk children between the ages of 4 months and 3  
14 years, who were not identified before the age of 4 months, for  
15 other intervention services available in the community.

16 (e) Evaluate and approve the grant applications and  
17 the local implementation plans for service delivery.

18 (f) Coordinate service delivery with Healthy Start  
19 care coordination.

20 (g) Identify qualified trainers and training  
21 opportunities that will assure adequate opportunities for  
22 grantees and their communities to provide preservice and  
23 inservice training. Funds for training may be incorporated  
24 into the grants.

25 (h) Contract with evaluators to develop and implement  
26 an evaluation design for the program.

27 (i) Provide for ongoing technical assistance and  
28 coordination to each community-based program.

29 (j) Develop and implement a quality assurance and  
30 improvement process for the program.

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1           (k) Evaluate the progress of the program and provide  
2 an annual report regarding the progress and achievement of  
3 designated outcomes to the Governor, the President of the  
4 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and other  
5 vested parties.

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7 The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida may subcontract the  
8 performance of tasks or services described in this section.

9           (7) WAIVER.--The Department of Health and the  
10 Department of Children and Family Services shall work jointly  
11 with the Agency for Health Care Administration to seek a  
12 federal waiver to secure Title XIX matching funds for the  
13 Healthy Families Florida program. The waiver application shall  
14 include allowance to use new and existing general revenue and  
15 local contributions. The Department of Children and Family  
16 Services and the Agency for Health Care Administration may not  
17 implement the federal waiver unless the waiver permits the  
18 state to limit enrollment or the amount, duration, and scope  
19 of services to ensure that expenditures will not exceed funds  
20 appropriated by the Legislature or available from local  
21 sources.

22           Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998.  
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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
Senate Bill 1660

- Specifies that the Healthy Families Program is created within available resources.
- Requires that services to families with substance abuse problems be linked with existing community-based substance abuse services.
- Removes the requirement that the Kempe Family Stress Clinic Checklist be used as the standardized assessment tool in the criteria for selecting recipients of grant funds.