

HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

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BILL: CS/SB 1276 1st Eng.
SPONSOR: Appropriations Committee and Senator Silver
SUBJECT: Florida Health and Human Services Access
PREPARED BY: Senate Committee on Health, Aging and Long-term Care
DATE: March 21, 2002

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1—601829 (body)
House Amendment 2—771959 (body with title)
House Amendment 3—484337 (body)
House Amendment 4—565577 (body)
House Amendment 6—804937 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 modifies the membership of the Office of Long-Term Care Policy Advisory Board to replace Area Agencies on Aging, the Florida Association of Service Providers and the Florida Association of Homes for the Aging with three people with broad knowledge and experience in the delivery of long-term care services.

House Amendment 2 removes the short title, “Florida Health and Human Services Access Act,” and removes the Legislative findings and intent.

House Amendment 3 removes the requirement that counties in which the pilot project regarding a comprehensive health and human services system are implemented be contiguous.

House Amendment 4 requires that in selecting an area to be designated as a model area in the pilot project regarding a comprehensive health and human services system, the department give consideration to an entity that is a community care for the elderly lead agency and which as developed through a joint effort, an integrated service delivery information network.

House Amendment 6 creates” The Consumer-Directed Care Act” which:

- requires a plan to reduce the number of nursing home bed days purchased by the state Medicaid program and modifies the methodology by which AHCA determines need for additional community nursing facility beds;
- allows AHCA to expand a contract to provide in-home physician services for the purpose of testing the cost effectiveness of enhanced home-based medical care to Medicaid recipients with degenerative neurological diseases;
- establishes the CARES nursing facility-preadmission screening program;
- establishes the Nursing Home Transition Program to assist individuals in nursing homes to regain independence and to move to less costly settings;

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- places the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program under the direction of the Department of Elderly Affairs, increases the allowable size of local Ombudsman Councils and requires training of Ombudsman volunteers;
 - exempts certain nursing homes with lease agreements from bonding requirements when the leases are required by a county or municipality;
 - allows a state designated teaching nursing home to demonstrate financial responsibility via a dedicated escrow account or irrevocable letter of credit;
 - exempts nursing homes and ALF facilities from certain salon requirements when a licensed cosmetologist provides salon services exclusively for facility residents;
 - allows the Department of Insurance to adopt those provisions of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners model long-term care insurance regulation which are not in conflict with the Florida Insurance Code; and
 - repeals a requirement that DOEA and AHCA not interfere with operations of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program, to conform with the transfer of the program to DOEA.