

By Senator Wasserman Schultz

32-568A-02

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to developmental disabilities;
3 amending s. 393.063, F.S.; adding the genetic
4 disease familial dysautonomia to the list of
5 disabilities defined and covered under ch. 393,
6 F.S.; providing an effective date.

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8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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10 Section 1. Subsections (12) and (19) of section
11 393.063, Florida Statutes, are amended, present subsections
12 (21) through (52) of that section are redesignated as
13 subsections (22) through (53), respectively, and a new
14 subsection (21) is added to that section, to read:

15 393.063 Definitions.--For the purposes of this
16 chapter:

17 (12) "Developmental disability" means a disorder or
18 syndrome that is attributable to retardation, cerebral palsy,
19 autism, spina bifida, familial dysautonomia, or Prader-Willi
20 syndrome and that constitutes a substantial handicap that can
21 reasonably be expected to continue indefinitely.

22 (19) "Epilepsy" means a chronic brain disorder of
23 various causes which is characterized by recurrent seizures
24 due to excessive discharge of cerebral neurons. When found
25 concurrently with retardation, autism, familial dysautonomia,
26 or cerebral palsy, epilepsy is considered a secondary
27 disability for which the client is eligible to receive
28 services to ameliorate this condition according to the
29 provisions of this chapter.

30 (21) "Familial dysautonomia" means a genetic
31 neurological condition characterized by decreased pain and

1 temperature sensation, absence of overflow tearing, pernicious
2 vomiting, spine curvature, and blood pressure lability. The
3 incidence of the disease within the Ashkenazi Jewish
4 population is one in 3,600, based on an estimated carrier
5 frequency of one in 32. Genetic testing is available using DNA
6 diagnostics with an accuracy of 99 percent. The carrier
7 frequency in non-Jewish individuals is unknown.

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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11 SENATE SUMMARY

12 Defines the term "familial dysautonomia" and adds this
13 genetic disease to the list of developmental disabilities
14 covered under ch. 393, F.S.
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