

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: CS/CS/SB 576

SPONSOR: Finance and Taxation Committee, Health Aging and Long-Term Care Committee and Senator Wise

SUBJECT: Persons With Disabilities

DATE: February 21, 2002 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Barnes	Whiddon	CF	Fav/1 amendment
2.	Liem	Wilson	HC	Favorable/CS
3.	Keating	Johansen	FT	Favorable/CS
4.			AHS	
5.			AP	
6.				

I. Summary:

The Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 576 provides for the development and implementation of the Personal-Care-Attendant Pilot Program to provide personal-care attendants to certain persons with traumatic spinal cord injury, to train individuals as personal-care attendants, and to train those injured individuals to work with a personal-care attendant. The bill authorizes the services of a nurse registry licensed under s. 400.506 to be used to recruit and screen candidates and to operate as a fiscal intermediary through which payments are made to individuals performing services as a personal care attendants under this pilot program. The program will serve individuals with disabilities who are aged 18 or older, are severely disabled due to a spinal cord injury, and have been determined eligible for training from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Recipients must either be living in a nursing home or have moved out of a nursing home within the preceding 180 days due to participation in a brain or spinal cord injury Medicaid waiver program.

The bill requires the Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living (FACIL) to develop memorandums of understanding for the development and implementation of the pilot program with the Department of Revenue, Department of Health, Agency for Health Care Administration, Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, and Department of Education. FACIL, in conjunction with the agencies, is to recruit, train, and place the personal-care attendants with eligible recipients.

An appropriation of \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds is provided from the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program Trust Fund to the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation for fiscal year 2002-2003 for the initial development of the pilot program. The Department of Revenue, FACIL, and the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association will select four counties to

operate the pilot program. The Association and the state attorneys' offices in Duval County and the four pilot program counties will develop and implement a tax collection enforcement diversion program to recover uncollected sales taxes. Twenty-five percent of revenues collected through these tax collection programs will be deposited with the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation to implement the personal care attendant pilot program. The first \$50,000 from each of the pilot counties deposited with the Endowment Foundation will be used to repay the \$250,000 to the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program Trust Fund.

This bill creates section 413.402 of the Florida Statutes and two undesignated sections of law.

II. Present Situation:

Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Programs

As specified in s. 381.7395, F.S., the Legislature intends that individuals who have moderate-to-severe brain or spinal cord injuries be referred to the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program (BSCIP) administered by the Department of Health. The program provides for rehabilitative services necessary for a recipient to be referred to an appropriate vocational rehabilitation program or to return to the community at an appropriate level of function.

The Department of Health is responsible for developing and administering a multilevel treatment program for persons suffering from brain and spinal cord injuries. Within 15 days of any report of an individual sustaining a brain or spinal cord injury, the department, under s. 381.75(1), F.S., must notify the individual or the individual's family members of their rights to assistance from the state, the services available, and the eligibility requirements. The department must refer injured persons to agencies offering rehabilitative services. Further, the department must develop standards for emergency medical evacuation to ensure that persons with brain or spinal cord injuries are transported to a department-approved trauma center under s. 381.75(3), F.S. Standards for designation of rehabilitation centers and transitional living facilities for brain and spinal cord injuries are set by the department under s. 381.75(4) and (6), F.S.

Eligibility for acceptance into the BSCIP under s. 381.76, F.S., is based on: referral to the central BSCIP registry under s. 381.74, F.S.; legal state residency at the time of application for services; the sustaining of a brain or spinal cord injury; sufficient medical stability; and a reasonable expectation of reintegration into the community through services provided by the program.

Under the provisions of s. 381.79(1)(b), F.S., the BSCIP trust fund provides funding for acute care, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, home and vehicle modification, and adaptive technology by a network of designated trauma, rehabilitation, and transitional living centers. The trust fund receives funding from fines levied for speeding, driving or boating under the influence, and surcharges on temporary license plates. The BSCIP acts as a "payer of last resort" and relies heavily on third party payment recoveries under s. 381.785, F.S., and comparable benefits for provision of rehabilitation services. A 16-member advisory council provides oversight of the program under s. 381.78, F.S.

Under s. 381.795, F.S., the department is required to study the long-term needs for community-based supports and services for individuals who have suffered brain and spinal cord injuries. The

purpose of the initiative is to prevent inappropriate residential and institutional placement of injured persons and promote placement in the most cost effective and least restrictive environment under s. 381.795(1), F.S. The department is also required to establish a plan for the implementation of a program of community-based supports and services for injured individuals subject to inappropriate residential or institutional placement under s. 381.795(2), F.S.

Olmstead v. L.C., Medicare and Medicaid

The *Olmstead v. L.C.*¹ case was first brought in 1995 by the Atlanta Legal Aid Society on behalf of two Medicaid recipients with developmental disabilities and psychiatric conditions who were patients in a state psychiatric hospital, against Tommy Olmstead, the Georgia Commissioner of Human Services. The treating professionals in the hospital agreed that the two recipients were appropriate for discharge into community programs but placements were not available. While the case worked its way through the courts, both recipients were placed in the community where they have been faring well. The case continued and was decided on the merits even though this particular situation was no longer in controversy.²

The claimants in *Olmstead v. L.C.* alleged that the failure to receive services in a community-based setting violated Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act,³ 29 USC s. 12132, and implementing regulations. Title II and its implementing regulations require public entities to administer their programs “in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities,” that is, a setting which “enables individuals with disabilities to interact with non-disabled persons to the fullest extent possible.” The state argued that “inadequate [Medicaid] funding” and not discrimination against the recipients was the basis for the continued institutionalization.

The federal district court granted summary judgment for the *Olmstead v. L.C.* plaintiffs and the state appealed. The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the state’s failure to provide integrated community services violated the Americans with Disabilities Act and the state appealed that decision as well. The United State Supreme Court issued a ruling on June 22, 1999, stating that that unjustified institutionalization of people with disabilities is prohibited discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act. However, the court clarified that Title II does not require measures that would “fundamentally alter” the nature of a public entity’s programs. This “fundamental alteration” is the concept under the Americans with Disabilities Act that governs the extent to which a public entity must modify its program to comply with the Act, making clear that the right of people with disabilities to receive services in the “most integrated setting” is not absolute.

In *Olmstead v. L.C.*, the Supreme Court indicated that, in evaluating a state’s “fundamental alteration” defense, courts are to consider not only the cost of providing community-based care to individuals but also the range of services the state provides to persons with disabilities and the state’s obligation to mete out those services in an equitable manner.

¹ 119 S.Ct. 2176, 527 U.S. 581, 144 L.Ed.2d 540 (1999).

² This form of jurisdiction is commonly termed “capable of repetition, yet evading review.”

³ The Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law on July 26, 1990, and has been described by many advocates as “wide-ranging legislation intended to make American society more accessible to people with disabilities.”

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (formerly known as the Health Care Financing Administration or HCFA) within the Department of Health and Human Services, which regulates the Medicaid⁴ and Medicare programs, has issued a series of letters and memos designed to clarify how the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is responding to the challenges presented by the *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has recently provided technical assistance and clarification about how to use existing services and options to transition Medicare and Medicaid patients from an institutional setting to the community.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, case management services are proper to assist disabled Medicare beneficiaries and Medicaid recipients in gaining access to needed medical, social, educational, and other services. Case management services are often used to foster and maintain the transitioning of a person from institutional care to a more integrated community setting and there are several methods by which case management services may be furnished under the Medicaid program for disabled recipients.

- Targeted case management may be furnished as a service to institutionalized persons who are about to be discharged to facilitate the process of transition to community services and to enable the person to gain access to needed medical, social, educational and other services in the community.
- Home and Community Based Services Case Management may be furnished when this service is included in an approved state waiver program. Persons served under a waiver may receive case management services while they are still institutionalized for up to 180 consecutive days prior to discharge.
- Administrative Case Management may be furnished as an administrative activity, necessary for the proper and efficient administration of a state Medicaid plan.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has advised that states may assess the accessibility and need for modification in a disabled person's home or vehicle at any time. Medicaid matching dollars may be available to cover these costs for otherwise eligible recipients.

In some cases it may be necessary to make environmental modifications to a disabled individual's home before the individual transitions from an institution to the community. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has authorized states to allow Medicaid reimbursement for home modifications (including actual construction costs) furnished as a waiver service for up to 180 days prior to discharge.

Personal-Care Attendants

Under s. 381.745(4), F.S., "personal assistance services" is defined as a range of services, provided by one or more individuals, which are designed to assist an individual who has a disability to perform activities of daily living. Under s. 381.745(1), F.S., the term "activity of daily living" is defined as an activity required on a frequent basis which permits an individual to secure or maintain independence, including personal home care, transportation, personal assistance services, housekeeping, shopping, attending school, communication, and employment.

⁴ Medicaid is a jointly-administered state and federal program.

Disabled persons and their advocates have developed formal and informal determinations of what constitutes a “personal-care attendant” and tend to differentiate such a person from the personal-care services available from home health agencies or the informal assistance available from family and friends. One resource put it this way:

“Personal” assistance means that users exercise the maximum control over how services are organized and custom-design their services according to their individual needs, capabilities, life circumstances and aspirations. In particular, personal assistance requires that the individual user decides who is to work, with which tasks, at which times, where and how. Therefore, the individual user must be able to recruit, train, schedule, supervise, and, if necessary, fire his or her own assistants. Simply put, “personal assistance” means that the user is the boss.

The State of Pennsylvania began a demonstration project under state law in 1986 to provide greater independence for people with disabilities through a home-based personal services program. Currently under the program, there are more than 400 highly qualified, trained personal-care attendants employed by more than 405 people with physical disabilities. The Pennsylvania program is funded by a variety of sources, including state and federal agencies. Recipients who do not receive benefits from Social Security or the state’s medical assistance program pay for a portion of their attendant-care service. Recipient contribution is based on a sliding fee scale to accommodate each individual’s ability to pay.

Currently, Florida does not have any programs to train personal-care attendants or to subsidize attendant-care services for individuals who are gainfully employed and do not qualify for Medicaid or vocational rehabilitation.

Revenue Collections for Unpaid Taxes

The Revenue Estimating Conference estimates recovery of unpaid sales taxes, that is, sales tax revenues collected from audits. The September 13, 2001 General Revenue Estimating Conference estimated recovery of uncollected sales tax revenues for fiscal year 2002-03 to be \$143.4 million. Pursuant to s. 212.20, F.S., this money is distributed to the General Revenue Fund, the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund, local governments, and certain sports facilities.

The Department of Revenue is currently working with Duval County on a sales tax collection enforcement diversion program to collect uncollected sales and use tax. Once the department has taken a case as far as possible, it is turned over to the diversion program where additional time and resources are expended to collect uncollected sales and use tax. The program has been very successful, collecting the following additional revenues: CY 2001 - \$617,533; CY 2000 - \$764,115; and CY 1999 - \$565,846. The additional revenues are deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

Florida Endowment for Vocational Rehabilitation

Section 413.615, F.S., establishes the Florida Endowment for Vocational Rehabilitation. The purpose of the section is to broaden the participation and funding potential for further significant support for the rehabilitation of Florida citizens who are disabled. The principal of the endowment fund is derived from civil penalties received by county courts for traffic infractions, legislative appropriations, and bequests, gifts, grants, and donations from public or private sources. The amount of traffic infraction penalties to be deposited into the endowment fund of the Florida Endowment for Vocational Rehabilitation is specified in s. 318.21(2)(e), F.S. Subsection (10) of s. 413.615, F.S., specifies the purposes for which the moneys in the operating account of the fund may be used.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1. Creates s. 413.402, F.S., to provide that FACIL develop the Personal Care Attendant Pilot Program for personal-care attendants to individuals:

- at least 18 years of age and seriously disabled due to a traumatic spinal cord injury;
- living in a nursing home or who have moved out of a nursing home within the preceding 180 days due to participation in a Medicaid home and community-based waiver program targeted to persons with brain or spinal cord injuries; and
- determined eligible for training services from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Department of Education.

The bill requires FACIL to develop memorandums of understanding with the Department of Revenue, the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program in the Department of Health, the Florida Medicaid Program in the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Department of Education. FACIL is to develop a training program for persons selected to participate in the pilot program in order to prepare each recipient to manage his or her own personal-care attendant.

The bill states that FACIL, in cooperation with the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, will:

- develop a program to recruit, screen, and select candidates to be trained as personal-care attendants;
- develop a training program for personal-care attendants; and
- establish procedures for selecting persons eligible to participate in the pilot program.

In addition, the bill authorizes the services of a nurse registry licensed under s. 400.506 to be used to recruit and screen candidates and to operate as a fiscal intermediary through which payments are made to individuals performing services as a personal care attendants under this pilot program. The Agency for Health Care Administration must seek federal waivers necessary to implement these provisions.

FACIL, in cooperation with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Department of Education, will assess the selected participants and make recommendations for their placement into appropriate work-related training programs. FACIL is to develop a plan for implementation of the program with the Department of Revenue, the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program in the Department of Health, the participating state attorneys' offices, the Florida Medicaid Program in the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Department of Education.

An implementation plan for the pilot program must be presented by FACIL to the Legislature by March 1, 2003, that will include:

- a timeline for implementation;
- estimates of the number of participants to be served; and
- cost projections for each component of the pilot program.

The pilot program will be implemented by July 1, 2003, unless there is specific legislative action to the contrary.

Section 2. Provides that the Department of Revenue in coordination with FACIL and the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association shall select four counties in which to operate the pilot program. The Association and the state attorneys' offices in Duval County and the four pilot program counties shall develop and implement a tax collection enforcement diversion program that will collect revenue from persons who have not remitted their collected sales tax. The criteria for referral to the diversion program will be determined cooperatively between the state attorneys' offices in those counties and the Department of Revenue.

The bill states that notwithstanding the normal sales tax distribution provisions of s. 212.20, F.S., 25 percent of the funds collected under the diversion program will be deposited in the operating account of the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation and used to implement the program and that the program will operate only from funds deposited into that account. Each year the revenue estimating conference is to project the amount of money likely to be generated from the tax collection enforcement diversion program.

Section 3. Provides for an appropriation of \$250,000 of nonrecurring funds from the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program Trust Fund to the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation for FY 2002-2003 for the initial development of the program. The initial \$50,000 from each of the pilot program counties and Duval county deposited with the Florida Endowment for Vocational Rehabilitation will be used to repay the \$250,000 to the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program Trust Fund.

Section 4. The bill, should it become law, shall be effective July 1, 2002.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

The provisions of this bill have no impact on municipalities and the counties under the requirements of Art. VII, s. 18 of the Florida Constitution.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

The provisions of this bill have no impact on public records or open meetings issues under the requirements of Art. I, s. 24(a) and (b) of the Florida Constitution.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

The provisions of this bill have no impact on the trust fund restrictions under the requirements of Art. III, s. 19(f) of the Florida Constitution.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

The bill requires the Department of Revenue in coordination with FACIL and the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association to select four counties in which to operate the pilot program. The Association and the state attorneys' offices in Duval County and the four pilot program counties shall develop and implement a tax collection enforcement diversion program that will collect revenue from persons who have not remitted their collected sales tax. The criteria for referral to the diversion program will be determined cooperatively between the state attorneys' offices in those counties and the Department of Revenue.

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After the 25 percent of the funds collected under the diversion program is deposited in the operating account of the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation, the remainder of the revenue will be distributed as provided for in s. 212.20, F.S. – to the General Revenue Fund, the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund, local governments and certain sports facilities.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The impact of the tax collection enforcement diversion program will affect only those persons who fail to remit collected sales tax revenues.

CS/SB 576 will benefit those persons with a disability who obtain a personal-care attendant and meet the selection criteria as specified in the bill.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill specifies that \$250,000 of nonrecurring funds will be transferred from the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program Trust Fund to the Florida Endowment Foundation for Vocational Rehabilitation for fiscal year 2001-2002 to implement the Personal-Care-Attendant Pilot Program. The bill states that the initial \$50,000 from each of the four pilot program counties and Duval County deposited with the Florida Endowment for Vocational Rehabilitation will be used to repay the \$250,000 to the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program Trust Fund. This provision will result in repaying the Trust Fund \$250,000.

It has not been determined by the Department of Health if sufficient surplus funds will be available in the Trust Fund account in fiscal year 2002-2003 to accommodate this transfer.

Funds from the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund will be used to initiate the pilot program. There may be options available for Medicaid funding for eligible services, which would bring approximately 56 cents of federal dollars into the state for every 44 cents of state money expended. To the extent that the newly created sales tax collection diversion program captures “new” funds, there is no cost to the state for the program.

The Department of Revenue states that additional resources may be needed to develop a computerized system for distributing diversion program funds.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

The Department of Revenue recommends that a special “clearing trust fund” should be created for this program in the department to ensure that diversion program funds are segregated from other sales and use tax collections. This would require a separate bill to create such a trust fund.

VIII. Amendments:

None.