

By Senator Argenziano

3-928-03

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to housing for the mentally
3 ill; expressing legislative intent to support
4 stable housing for persons who have a mental
5 illness; providing that such housing must be
6 available in diverse settings; providing for
7 rulemaking by the Department of Children and
8 Family Services; providing an effective date.

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

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12 Section 1. Supportive housing for persons with mental
13 illness.--

14 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.--It is the intent of the
15 Legislature to support the promotion and production of stable
16 housing for persons who have a mental illness. The Legislature
17 seeks to ensure that residents of this state who have a mental
18 illness have access to supportive housing programs or
19 equivalent services that are made available equally to all
20 individuals who have a serious mental illness irrespective of
21 their location, type of residence, or living situation.

22 (2) AVAILABILITY OF HOUSING.--Supportive housing
23 services must be available to persons who have a mental
24 illness, whether living in their own homes, in rental
25 apartments, in licensed limited mental health assisted living
26 facilities, or in other situations of the individual's
27 choosing.

28 (3) RULES.--The Department of Children and Family
29 Services shall, no later than December 1, 2003, adopt rules to
30 implement this act. The rules shall, at a minimum, include:

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- 1 (a) A definition of state-funded supportive housing
2 for persons who have a serious mental illness.
3 (b) Provider-certification procedures and oversight
4 responsibilities.
5 (c) Provider training and educational requirements.
6 (d) Standards that relate to individual rights,
7 health, and safety of consumers.
8 (e) Standards that relate to the use of state funds
9 for rental subsidies and other support services.
10 (f) Standards for the provision of state-funded
11 supportive housing services.
12 (g) Standards that relate to appropriateness of
13 placement and procedures for addressing a crisis and
14 after-hours care needs.
15 (h) Requirements for district planning.
16 (i) Provision for a single statewide complaint and
17 grievance system.

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

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21 SENATE SUMMARY

22 Expresses the legislative intent that stable housing be
23 made available for persons who have a mental illness.
24 Provides that such housing must be available in diverse
25 settings. Requires that the Department of Children and
26 Family Services adopt rules and specifies the content of
27 the rules.
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