

Bill No. CS for CS for CS for SB's 2328 & 2252

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_ Barcode 973260

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Senator Lee moved the following amendment:

**Senate Amendment**

On page 28, line 8, through page 33, line 22, delete those lines

and insert:

Section 8. Section 445.048, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

445.048 Passport to Economic Progress demonstration program.--

(1) AUTHORIZATION.--Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, Workforce Florida, Inc., in conjunction with the Department of Children and Family Services and the Agency for Workforce Innovation, shall implement a Passport to Economic Progress demonstration program ~~by November 1, 2001,~~ consistent with the provisions of this section in Hillsborough, ~~and~~ Manatee, and Sarasota counties. Workforce Florida, Inc., must consult with the applicable regional workforce boards and the applicable local offices of the department which serve the demonstration areas and must encourage community input into

Bill No. CS for CS for CS for SB's 2328 & 2252

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_ Barcode 973260

1 the implementation process.

2 (2) WAIVERS.--If Workforce Florida, Inc., in  
 3 consultation with the Department of Children and Family  
 4 Services, finds that federal waivers would facilitate  
 5 implementation of the demonstration program, the department  
 6 shall immediately request such waivers, and Workforce Florida,  
 7 Inc., shall report to the Governor, the President of the  
 8 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives if any  
 9 refusal of the federal government to grant such waivers  
 10 prevents the implementation of the demonstration program. If  
 11 Workforce Florida, Inc., finds that federal waivers to  
 12 provisions of the Food Stamp Program would facilitate  
 13 implementation of the demonstration program, the Department of  
 14 Children and Family Services shall immediately request such  
 15 waivers in accordance with s. 414.175.

16 ~~(3) INCOME DISREGARD.--In order to provide an~~  
 17 ~~additional incentive for employment, and notwithstanding the~~  
 18 ~~amount specified in s. 414.095(12), for individuals residing~~  
 19 ~~in the areas designated for this demonstration program, the~~  
 20 ~~first \$300 plus one-half of the remainder of earned income~~  
 21 ~~shall be disregarded in determining eligibility for temporary~~  
 22 ~~cash assistance. All other conditions and requirements of s.~~  
 23 ~~414.095(12) shall continue to apply to such individuals.~~

24 (3)(4) TRANSITIONAL BENEFITS AND SERVICES.--In order  
 25 to assist them in making the transition to economic  
 26 self-sufficiency, former recipients of temporary cash  
 27 assistance residing within the areas designated for this  
 28 demonstration program shall be eligible for the following  
 29 benefits and services:

30 (a) Notwithstanding the time period specified in s.  
 31 445.030, transitional education and training support services

Bill No. CS for CS for CS for SB's 2328 & 2252

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_ Barcode 973260

1 as specified in s. 445.030 for up to 4 years after the family  
2 is no longer receiving temporary cash assistance;

3 (b) Notwithstanding the time period specified in s.  
4 445.031, transitional transportation support services as  
5 specified in s. 445.031 for up to 4 years after the family is  
6 no longer receiving temporary cash assistance; and

7 (c) Notwithstanding the time period specified in s.  
8 445.032, transitional child care as specified in s. 445.032  
9 for up to 4 years after the family is no longer receiving  
10 temporary cash assistance.

11

12 All other provisions of ss. 445.030, 445.031, and 445.032  
13 shall apply to such individuals, as appropriate. This  
14 subsection does not constitute an entitlement to transitional  
15 benefits and services. If funds are insufficient to provide  
16 benefits and services under this subsection, the board of  
17 directors of Workforce Florida, Inc., may limit such benefits  
18 and services or otherwise establish priorities for the  
19 provisions of such benefits and services.

20 (4) INCENTIVES TO ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY.--

21 (a) The Legislature finds that:

22 1. There are former recipients of temporary cash  
23 assistance who are working full time but whose incomes are  
24 below the poverty level.

25 2. Having incomes below the federal poverty level  
26 makes such individuals particularly vulnerable to reliance on  
27 public assistance despite their best efforts to achieve or  
28 maintain economic independence through employment.

29 3. It is necessary to implement a performance-based  
30 program that defines economic incentives for achieving  
31 specific benchmarks toward self-sufficiency while the

Bill No. CS for CS for CS for SB's 2328 & 2252

Amendment No.      Barcode 973260

1 individual is working full time.

2 (b) Workforce Florida, Inc., in cooperation with the  
3 Department of Children and Family Services and the Agency for  
4 Workforce Innovation, shall offer performance-based incentive  
5 bonuses as a component of the Passport to Economic Progress  
6 demonstration program in the areas of the state which are  
7 designated for the demonstration program. The bonuses do not  
8 represent a program entitlement and shall be contingent on  
9 achieving specific benchmarks prescribed in the  
10 self-sufficiency plan. If the funds appropriated for this  
11 purpose are insufficient to provide this financial incentive,  
12 the board of directors of Workforce Florida, Inc., shall  
13 reduce or suspend the bonuses in order not to exceed the  
14 appropriation.

15 ~~(5) WAGE SUPPLEMENTATION.--~~

16 ~~(a) The Legislature finds that:~~

17 ~~1. There are former recipients of temporary cash~~  
18 ~~assistance who are working full time but whose incomes are~~  
19 ~~below the federal poverty level.~~

20 ~~2. Having incomes below the federal poverty level~~  
21 ~~makes such individuals particularly vulnerable to reliance on~~  
22 ~~public assistance despite their best efforts to achieve or~~  
23 ~~maintain economic independence through employment.~~

24 ~~3. It is necessary to supplement the wages of such~~  
25 ~~individuals for a limited period of time in order to assist~~  
26 ~~them in fulfilling the transition to economic~~  
27 ~~self-sufficiency.~~

28 ~~(b) Workforce Florida, Inc., in cooperation with the~~  
29 ~~Department of Children and Family Services and the Agency for~~  
30 ~~Workforce Innovation, shall create a transitional wage~~  
31 ~~supplementation program by November 1, 2001, as a component of~~

Bill No. CS for CS for CS for SB's 2328 & 2252

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_ Barcode 973260

1 ~~the Passport to Economic Progress demonstration program in the~~  
2 ~~areas designated for the demonstration program. This wage~~  
3 ~~supplementation program does not constitute an entitlement to~~  
4 ~~wage supplementation. If funds appropriated are insufficient~~  
5 ~~to provide wage supplementation, the board of directors of~~  
6 ~~Workforce Florida, Inc., may limit wage supplementation or~~  
7 ~~otherwise establish priorities for wage supplementation.~~

8 (c) To be eligible for an incentive bonus wage  
9 supplementation under this subsection, an individual must:

10 1. Be a former recipient of temporary cash assistance  
11 who last received such assistance on or after January 1, 2000;

12 2. Be employed full time, which for the purposes of  
13 this subsection means employment averaging at least 32 hours  
14 per week until the United States Congress enacts legislation  
15 reauthorizing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families  
16 block grant, and, after the reauthorization, means employment  
17 complying with the employment requirements of the reauthorized  
18 law; and

19 3. Have an average family income for the 6 months  
20 preceding the date of application for an incentive bonus wage  
21 supplementation which is less than 100 percent of the federal  
22 poverty level.

23 ~~(d) Workforce Florida, Inc., shall determine the~~  
24 ~~schedule for the payment of wage supplementation under this~~  
25 ~~subsection. An individual eligible for wage supplementation~~  
26 ~~under this subsection may receive a payment that equals the~~  
27 ~~amount necessary to bring the individual's total family income~~  
28 ~~for the period covered by the payment to 100 percent of the~~  
29 ~~federal poverty level. An individual may not receive wage~~  
30 ~~supplementation payments for more than a total of 12 months.~~

31 ~~(e) The wage supplementation program authorized by~~

Bill No. CS for CS for CS for SB's 2328 & 2252

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_ Barcode 973260

1 ~~this subsection shall be administered through the regional~~  
2 ~~workforce boards and the one-stop delivery system, under~~  
3 ~~policy guidelines, criteria, and applications developed by~~  
4 ~~Workforce Florida, Inc., in cooperation with the Department of~~  
5 ~~Children and Family Services and the Agency for Workforce~~  
6 ~~Innovation. To the maximum extent possible, the regional~~  
7 ~~workforce boards shall use electronic debit card technologies~~  
8 ~~to provide wage supplementation payments under this program.~~

9       ~~(5)(6)~~ EVALUATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.--Workforce  
10 Florida, Inc., in conjunction with the Department of Children  
11 and Family Services, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, and  
12 the regional workforce boards in the areas designated for this  
13 demonstration program, shall conduct a comprehensive  
14 evaluation of the effectiveness of the demonstration program  
15 operated under this section. By January 1, 2005 ~~2003~~,  
16 Workforce Florida, Inc., shall submit a report on such  
17 evaluation to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and  
18 the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report must  
19 include recommendations as to whether the demonstration  
20 program should be expanded to other service areas or statewide  
21 and whether the program should be revised to enhance its  
22 administration or effectiveness.

23       ~~(6)(7)~~ CONFLICTS.--If there is a conflict between the  
24 implementation procedures described in this section and  
25 federal requirements and regulations, federal requirements and  
26 regulations shall control.

27       Section 9. The sum of \$2,859,200 is appropriated from  
28 the Welfare Transition Trust Fund to the Agency for Workforce  
29 Innovation for implementing the Passport to Economic Progress  
30 demonstration program during the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

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