

By Senator Hill

1-1879A-04

See HB 1523

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the Florida KidCare program;
providing an appropriation; providing an
effective date.

WHEREAS, the Florida KidCare program was created by the
Legislature in 1998 as a public-private partnership that
offers working families the opportunity to purchase low-cost
health care for their children, and

WHEREAS, the Florida KidCare program is a proven
effective program serving over 1.5 million children under age
19, and

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of our children are
of highest priority, and ensuring that children are provided
adequate health care is a fundamental family value, and

WHEREAS, providing children health insurance is a
prudent financial investment, relieving a burden on the
state's over-crowded emergency rooms, providing to the state's
schools a healthy child who is better able to learn, and
enabling parents to be more productive in their jobs, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government pays over 70 percent of
the cost of the Florida KidCare program for Title-XXI-eligible
children, and

WHEREAS, Medicaid and Title XXI spending has a
significant impact on the state's economy, generating a rate
of return for fiscal year 2001 of \$2.82 per dollar invested in
Medicaid, creating new business activity, jobs, and wages, and

WHEREAS, Congress provided this state with \$413 million
in additional Medicaid dollars in 2003, with the intent that
it be used for health care and an additional \$132 million in

1 State Children's Health Insurance Program federal funds in
2 February of 2004, and

3 WHEREAS, the 2003 Legislature froze the enrollment for
4 the Florida KidCare program, creating a waiting list of over
5 100,000 Title-XXI-eligible and non-Title-XXI-eligible
6 children, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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10 Section 1. There is hereby appropriated from the
11 General Revenue Fund, the Agency for Health Care
12 Administration Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund, the Department
13 of Health Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund, and the Health Care
14 Trust Fund to the Agency for Health Care Administration and
15 the Department of Health an amount sufficient to fully fund
16 the Florida KidCare program for the remainder of this year and
17 for fiscal year 2004-2005, providing coverage for all
18 Title-XXI-eligible and non-Title-XXI-eligible children,
19 including immediate coverage for the 2003-2004 waiting list as
20 of the effective date of this act, eligible children for the
21 remainder of the 2003-2004 fiscal year, future growth in the
22 program, and future price level increases.

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
24 law.

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