

By the Committee on Children and Families; and Senators Crist and Lynn

586-2123-05

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to caregivers for adults;

3 authorizing the Department of Elderly Affairs

4 to create a pilot program to train economically

5 disadvantaged workers who are a specified age

6 or older to act as companions and provide

7 certain services to frail and vulnerable adults

8 in the community; specifying additional

9 purposes of the pilot program; requiring an

10 evaluation and report to the Legislature;

11 providing an effective date.

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

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15 Section 1. (1) Beginning in the 2005-2006 fiscal year

16 and for a period of no longer than 3 years, the Department of

17 Elderly Affairs may establish a pilot program to train

18 economically disadvantaged workers who are 55 years of age or

19 older to act as companions and provide personal assistance to

20 frail and vulnerable adults in the community. The department

21 shall use the resources of the Senior Community Service

22 Employment Program to support the pilot program to the

23 greatest extent allowed by federal law. The purposes of the

24 pilot program are to:

25 (a) Foster the development of training and employment

26 opportunities for economically disadvantaged workers who are

27 55 years of age or older;

28 (b) Encourage the use of economically disadvantaged

29 workers who are 55 years of age or older in providing

30 community-based care for frail and vulnerable adults who live

31 in the community;

1 (c) Assist in meeting the growing demand for in-home
2 companion care services and personal care services and in
3 preventing costly and premature institutional placements; and

4 (d) Act as a direct referral service for the
5 Department of Elderly Affairs.

6 (2) By January 1, 2008, if the pilot program is
7 established, the Department of Elderly Affairs shall submit a
8 report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
9 House of Representatives which includes the status of the
10 implementation of the program, the number of economically
11 disadvantaged workers who have been trained to provide
12 community-based care for frail and vulnerable older adults who
13 live in the community, the number of frail and vulnerable
14 older adults who have received such services, and
15 recommendations for further legislation, including a
16 recommendation regarding extending the pilot program
17 throughout the state.

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.
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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
Senate Bill 2630

Replaces the directive to the Department of Elderly Affairs (DOEA) to create the Seniors Offering Services program as an independent, not-for-profit corporation with authorization for DOEA to establish a pilot program, using the resources of the currently-existing Senior Community Service Employment Program to the fullest extent allowed by federal law.

Removes the geographic restriction as to the location of the pilot program.

Requires that if the program is established, it must begin in fiscal year 2005-06.

Limits the duration of the pilot program to 3 years.

Requires an evaluation of the program and a report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2008, if the program is established.