

HB 1327

2006

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to transition services for adolescents and  
3           young adults with disabilities; creating the Jacksonville  
4           Health and Transition Services Pilot Program; assigning  
5           the program for administrative purposes to Children's  
6           Medical Services in the Department of Health; providing  
7           purposes of the program; delineating the target  
8           population; describing participating service providers and  
9           the services that they are to provide; providing for the  
10          design and implementation of a comprehensive evaluation of  
11          the pilot program; providing an appropriation; providing  
12          an effective date.

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

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16          Section 1. Jacksonville Health and Transition Services  
17 Pilot Program; creation; purposes; participating agencies and  
18 services provided; evaluation.--

19          (1) The Jacksonville Health and Transition Services Pilot  
20 Program is created for the purpose of assisting adolescents and  
21 young adults who have special needs relating to health care and  
22 educational and vocational services in making a smooth  
23 transition from the child health care and educational system to  
24 the adult health care system and to employment. For  
25 administrative purposes, the pilot program is located in  
26 Children's Medical Services in the Department of Health.

27          (2) The Department of Internal Medicine and the Department  
28 of Pediatrics at the University of Florida Jacksonville, in

HB 1327

2006

29 collaboration with Children's Medical Services and community  
30 partners, including, but not limited to, ARC Jacksonville, Hope  
31 Haven Children's Clinic and Family Center, the Spina Bifida  
32 Association, and the Down Syndrome Association, shall develop  
33 the pilot program. The primary care clinic for the program shall  
34 be located in the Ambulatory Care Center on the University of  
35 Florida/Shands Jacksonville campus.

36 (3) The target population for the pilot program comprises  
37 adolescents and young adults with disabilities who are between  
38 14 and 25 years of age, inclusive, reside in the North Central  
39 area of Children's Medical Services of the Department of Health,  
40 have chronic health-related or developmental conditions, and  
41 could benefit from such a program. All children in the  
42 Children's Medical Services State Child Health Insurance Program  
43 (SCHIP), Medicaid, and Safety Net (Children's Medical Services),  
44 as well as referrals from the Nemours Children's Clinic, the  
45 Duval County School District, general pediatricians, and other  
46 health care providers, shall be assessed for eligibility to  
47 enroll in the program.

48 (4) Upon intake into the program, participants shall be  
49 offered an assessment of their development and educational and  
50 vocational achievement. The pilot program shall work with  
51 participants and their families to plan for transition to  
52 college or to programs for adult educational and vocational  
53 rehabilitation. The program shall work with local school  
54 systems, community colleges, technical centers, and community-  
55 based agencies to provide vocational counseling and training.  
56 The pilot program shall develop partnerships with community-

HB 1327

2006

57 based agencies as listed in subsection (2) to support  
58 comprehensive transition planning and educational and vocational  
59 counseling services.

60 (5) The pilot program shall include:

61 (a) A primary-care clinic in the Ambulatory Care Center on  
62 the University of Florida/Shands Jacksonville campus, which  
63 shall be staffed by a multidisciplinary team that includes a  
64 pediatrician and an internist, a nurse care coordinator, a  
65 transition specialist, and insurance specialists.

66 (b) A network of adult medical and surgical specialists  
67 from the community and from the University of Florida  
68 Jacksonville Health Care System who agree to treat the special  
69 needs of the adolescents and young adults who are being served  
70 in the pilot program.

71 (c) Comprehensive intake-evaluation and transition-  
72 planning services for adolescents and young adults and their  
73 families that cover health care planning, assessment of  
74 educational needs, vocational preparation, referral to  
75 habilitative support services, assistance in securing insurance,  
76 and coordination of services across these areas.

77 (d) Coordination and collaboration with other agencies  
78 that are involved in providing services to adolescents and young  
79 adults who have special health care needs, including ARC  
80 Jacksonville, Hope Haven Children's Clinic and Family Center,  
81 Nemours Children's Clinic, the Duval County School District, the  
82 juvenile justice system, family support services, the foster  
83 care program of the Department of Children and Family Services,  
84 faith-based community programs, and the Duval County Health

HB 1327

2006

85 Department.

86 (e) Ongoing evaluation of patient satisfaction, disease  
87 self-management, and success in taking steps toward employment  
88 and health-related quality of life and other health-related  
89 outcomes.

90 (f) Services that support the intellectual development and  
91 educational and vocational preparation of adolescents and young  
92 adults with disabilities who are enrolled in the program.

93 (6) Participating agencies and the health and social  
94 services that they shall provide include:

95 (a) The Department of Internal Medicine at the University  
96 of Florida Jacksonville, which shall:

97 1. Provide a primary care physician who shall serve as the  
98 co-medical director of the pilot program.

99 2. Work with both medical and surgical specialty services  
100 to facilitate specialty referrals of patients.

101 3. Provide administrative support to the pilot program,  
102 including, but not limited to, supervision of clinic staff,  
103 scheduling, and billing.

104 4. Allot clinic space for a multidisciplinary transition  
105 clinic, which shall initially operate at least once a week and  
106 shall expand as the demand increases.

107 5. Assign nursing and support staff to the clinic,  
108 including staff to implement an appointment system.

109 6. Maintain medical records and charts under the  
110 University of Florida/Shands Health Care System.

111 7. Make efforts to ensure that adolescents and young  
112 adults with disabilities participating in the pilot program,

113 regardless of their funding source, shall continue to receive  
 114 health care services, including primary and specialty outpatient  
 115 medical services, medications, and laboratory services, until  
 116 they reach their 26th birthday.

117 (b) The Department of Pediatrics at the University of  
 118 Florida Jacksonville, which shall:

119 1. Provide a primary care pediatrician who shall serve as  
 120 the co-medical director of the pilot program.

121 2. Work with pediatric specialty physicians to facilitate  
 122 the transfer of adolescents and young adults with disabilities  
 123 from pediatric health care specialists to adult health care  
 124 specialists. The Department of Pediatrics shall contact  
 125 pediatric specialists and determine what activities or supports  
 126 are needed to transfer patients from pediatric specialty care to  
 127 adult specialty care, such as the transfer of medical records  
 128 and the provision of educational programs for adult specialists.

129 3. Encourage participation by the subspecialty pediatric  
 130 physicians through the development of transition programs within  
 131 each specialty area to prepare patients and their families for  
 132 participation in the pilot program.

133 4. Identify and refer adolescents and young adults and  
 134 their families who are candidates for the pilot program.

135 (c) The Nemours Children's Clinic, which shall:

136 1. Encourage participation by the subspecialty pediatric  
 137 physicians through the development of transition programs within  
 138 each specialty area to prepare adolescents and young adults with  
 139 disabilities and their families for participation in the pilot  
 140 program.

HB 1327

2006

141       2. Identify and refer adolescents and young adults and  
142 their families who are candidates for the pilot program.

143       3. Provide in-kind support for care coordination and  
144 specialized transitional services.

145       (d) The Institute for Health, Policy and Evaluation  
146 Research within the Duval County Health Department, which shall  
147 provide the design and implementation of a comprehensive  
148 evaluation of the pilot program that includes an assessment of  
149 the service-oriented process and patient and family-oriented  
150 outcome measures. The Institute for Health, Policy and  
151 Evaluation Research shall also conduct a longitudinal study to  
152 determine whether the adolescents and young adults with  
153 disabilities who participate in this pilot program are more  
154 successful than the adolescents and young adults with  
155 disabilities who are not associated with the program but receive  
156 assistance with vocational rehabilitation only.

157       (e) Hope Haven Children's Clinic and Family Center,  
158 Nemours Children's Clinic, ARC Jacksonville, the Duval County  
159 School District, the Florida Community College of Jacksonville,  
160 the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Department of  
161 Education, and other groups, which shall develop a comprehensive  
162 educational and vocational transition program that shall be  
163 offered to adolescents and young adults with disabilities in the  
164 program. The transition specialists in these agencies shall  
165 identify, to the greatest extent feasible, all adolescents and  
166 young adults with disabilities in the district and refer them to  
167 the program.

168       Section 2. The sum of \$350,000 is appropriated from the

HB 1327

2006

169 General Revenue Fund to Children's Medical Services in the  
170 Department of Health for the purpose of paying startup and  
171 operation costs of the Jacksonville Health and Transition  
172 Services Pilot Program during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

173 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.