

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to transition services for adolescents and young adults with disabilities; creating the Jacksonville Health and Transition Services Pilot Program; assigning the program for administrative purposes to the Children's Medical Services program in the Department of Health; providing purposes of the pilot program; providing for the development of collaborative partnerships with certain entities; delineating the target population; describing participating service providers and the services that they are to provide; providing for the design and implementation of a comprehensive evaluation of the pilot program; providing a contingent effective date.

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

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

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

28 (2) The pilot program, in consultation with the Children's
29 Medical Services program in the Department of Health, shall
30 develop collaborative partnerships with the public and private
31 entities specified in this section to administer and implement
32 the pilot program. Participation in the program by such entities
33 is voluntary. However, an entity that participates in the
34 program must comply with the requirements of this section.

35 (3) The Department of Internal Medicine and the Department
36 of Pediatrics at the University of Florida Jacksonville, in
37 collaboration with Children's Medical Services and community
38 partners, including, but not limited to, ARC Jacksonville, Hope
39 Haven Children's Clinic and Family Center, the Spina Bifida
40 Association, and the Down Syndrome Association, shall develop
41 the pilot program. The primary care clinic for the program shall
42 be located in the Ambulatory Care Center on the University of
43 Florida/Shands Jacksonville campus.

44 (4) The target population for the pilot program comprises
45 adolescents and young adults with disabilities who are between
46 14 and 25 years of age, inclusive, reside in the North Central
47 area of Children's Medical Services of the Department of Health,
48 have chronic health-related or developmental conditions, and
49 could benefit from such a program. All children in the
50 Children's Medical Services State Child Health Insurance Program
51 (SCHIP), Medicaid, and Safety Net (Children's Medical Services),
52 as well as referrals from the Nemours Children's Clinic, the
53 Duval County School District, general pediatricians, and other

54 health care providers, shall be assessed for eligibility to
55 enroll in the program.

56 (5) Upon intake into the program, participants shall be
57 offered an assessment of their development and educational and
58 vocational achievement. The pilot program shall work with
59 participants and their families to plan for transition to
60 college or to programs for adult educational and vocational
61 rehabilitation. The program shall work with local school
62 systems, community colleges, technical centers, and community-
63 based agencies to provide vocational counseling and training.
64 The pilot program shall develop partnerships with community-
65 based agencies as listed in subsection (3) to support
66 comprehensive transition planning and educational and vocational
67 counseling services.

68 (6) The pilot program shall include:

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

74 (b) A network of adult medical and surgical specialists
75 from the community and from the University of Florida
76 Jacksonville Health Care System who agree to treat the special
77 needs of the adolescents and young adults who are being served
78 in the pilot program.

79 (c) Comprehensive intake-evaluation and transition-
80 planning services for adolescents and young adults and their

81 families that cover health care planning, assessment of
 82 educational needs, vocational preparation, referral to
 83 habilitative support services, assistance in securing insurance,
 84 and coordination of services across these areas.

85 (d) Coordination and collaboration with other agencies
 86 that are involved in providing services to adolescents and young
 87 adults who have special health care needs, including ARC
 88 Jacksonville, Hope Haven Children's Clinic and Family Center,
 89 Nemours Children's Clinic, the Duval County School District, the
 90 juvenile justice system, family support services, the foster
 91 care program of the Department of Children and Family Services,
 92 faith-based community programs, and the Duval County Health
 93 Department.

94 (e) Ongoing evaluation of patient satisfaction, disease
 95 self-management, and success in taking steps toward employment
 96 and health-related quality of life and other health-related
 97 outcomes.

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

101 (7) Participating agencies and the health and social
 102 services that they shall provide include:

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

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

107 2. Work with both medical and surgical specialty services
108 to facilitate specialty referrals of patients.

109 3. Provide administrative support to the pilot program,
110 including, but not limited to, supervision of clinic staff,
111 scheduling, and billing.

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

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

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

119 7. Make efforts to ensure that adolescents and young
120 adults with disabilities participating in the pilot program,
121 regardless of their funding source, shall continue to receive
122 health care services, including primary and specialty outpatient
123 medical services, medications, and laboratory services, until
124 they reach their 26th birthday.

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

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

129 2. Work with pediatric specialty physicians to facilitate
130 the transfer of adolescents and young adults with disabilities
131 from pediatric health care specialists to adult health care
132 specialists. The Department of Pediatrics shall contact
133 pediatric specialists and determine what activities or supports

134 are needed to transfer patients from pediatric specialty care to
135 adult specialty care, such as the transfer of medical records
136 and the provision of educational programs for adult specialists.

137 3. Encourage participation by the subspecialty pediatric
138 physicians through the development of transition programs within
139 each specialty area to prepare patients and their families for
140 participation in the pilot program.

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

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

144 1. Encourage participation by the subspecialty pediatric
145 physicians through the development of transition programs within
146 each specialty area to prepare adolescents and young adults with
147 disabilities and their families for participation in the pilot
148 program.

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

151 3. Provide in-kind support for care coordination and
152 specialized transitional services.

153 (d) The Institute for Health, Policy and Evaluation
154 Research within the Duval County Health Department, which shall
155 provide the design and implementation of a comprehensive
156 evaluation of the pilot program that includes an assessment of
157 the service-oriented process and patient and family-oriented
158 outcome measures. The Institute for Health, Policy and
159 Evaluation Research shall also conduct a longitudinal study to
160 determine whether the adolescents and young adults with

161 disabilities who participate in this pilot program are more
162 successful than the adolescents and young adults with
163 disabilities who are not associated with the program but receive
164 assistance with vocational rehabilitation only.

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

176 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006, only
177 if a specific appropriation to the Department of Health to fund
178 the provisions of this act is made in the General Appropriations
179 Act for fiscal year 2006-2007.