

By Senator Jones

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to caregivers for adults;  
authorizing the Department of Elderly Affairs  
to create a pilot program to train economically  
disadvantaged workers who are a specified age  
or older to act as companions and provide  
certain services to frail and vulnerable adults  
in the community; specifying additional  
purposes of the pilot program; requiring an  
evaluation and report to the Legislature;  
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. (1) Beginning in the 2006-2007 fiscal year  
and for a period of no longer than 3 years, the Department of  
Elderly Affairs may establish a pilot program to train  
economically disadvantaged workers who are 55 years of age or  
older to act as companions and provide personal assistance to  
frail and vulnerable adults in the community. The department  
shall use the resources of the Senior Community Service  
Employment Program to support the pilot program to the  
greatest extent allowed by federal law. The purposes of the  
pilot program are to:

(a) Foster the development of training and employment  
opportunities for economically disadvantaged workers who are  
55 years of age or older;

(b) Encourage the use of economically disadvantaged  
workers who are 55 years of age or older in providing  
community-based care for frail and vulnerable adults who live  
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, 2009, 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, 2006.

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21           SENATE SUMMARY

22           Authorizes the Department of Elderly Affairs to create a  
23           pilot program to train economically disadvantaged workers  
24           who are a specified age or older to act as companions and  
25           provide certain services to frail and vulnerable adults  
              in the community. Specifies additional purposes of the  
              pilot program. Requires an evaluation and report to the  
              Legislature.