

By Senator Wise

5-960B-06

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to transitional services to

3 young adults with disabilities; creating the

4 Jacksonville Health and Transition Services

5 Pilot Program; assigning the program for

6 administrative purposes to Children's Medical

7 Services in the Department of Health; providing

8 purposes of the program; delineating the target

9 population; describing participating service

10 providers and the services that they are to

11 provide; providing for the design and

12 implementation of a comprehensive evaluation of

13 the pilot program; providing an appropriation;

14 providing an effective date.

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

18 Section 1. Jacksonville Health and Transition Services

19 Pilot Program; creation; purposes; participating agencies and

20 services provided; evaluation.--

21 (1) The Jacksonville Health and Transition Services

22 Pilot Program is created for the purpose of assisting

23 adolescents and young adults who have special needs relating

24 to health care and educational and vocational services in

25 making a smooth transition from the child health care and

26 educational system to the adult health care system and to

27 employment. For administrative purposes, the pilot program is

28 located in Children's Medical Services in the Department of

29 Health.

30 (2) The Department of Internal Medicine and the

31 Department of Pediatrics, at the University of

1 Florida-Jacksonville Campus, in collaboration with Children's
2 Medical Services and community partners, including, but not
3 limited to, ARC Jacksonville, Hope Haven Clinic, the Spina
4 Bifida Association, and the Down Syndrome Association shall
5 develop the pilot program. The primary care clinic for the
6 program will be located in the Ambulatory Care Center on the
7 Shands/Jacksonville Hospital campus.

8 (3) The target population for this pilot program
9 comprises disabled persons who are 14 through 25 years of age,
10 reside in the North Central area of Children's Medical
11 Services of the Department of Health, have chronic
12 health-related or developmental conditions, and could benefit
13 from such a program. All children in the Children's Medical
14 Services State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP),
15 Medicaid, and Safety Net (Children's Medical Services), as
16 well as referrals from the Nemours Children's Clinic, the
17 Duval County School District, general pediatricians, and other
18 health care providers, should be assessed for eligibility to
19 enroll in the program.

20 (4) Upon intake into the program, participants shall
21 be offered an assessment of their development and educational
22 and vocational achievement. The pilot program shall work with
23 participants and their families to plan for transition to
24 college or to programs for adult educational and vocational
25 rehabilitation. The program should work with local school
26 systems, community colleges, technical centers, and
27 community-based agencies to provide vocational counseling and
28 training. The pilot program should develop partnerships with
29 community-based agencies as listed in subsection (2) to
30 support comprehensive transition planning and educational and
31 vocational counseling services.

1 (5) The pilot program shall include:

2 (a) A primary-care clinic in the University of
3 Florida-Jacksonville Adult Ambulatory Care Center, which shall
4 be staffed by a multidisciplinary team that includes a
5 pediatrician and an internist, a nurse care coordinator, a
6 transition specialist, and insurance specialists.

7 (b) A network of adult medical and surgical
8 specialists from the community and from the University of
9 Florida-Jacksonville System who agree to treat the special
10 needs of the adolescents and young adults who are being served
11 in the pilot program.

12 (c) Comprehensive intake-evaluation and
13 transition-planning services for children and families which
14 cover health care planning, assessment of educational needs,
15 vocational preparation, referral to habilitative support
16 services, assistance in securing insurance, and coordination
17 of services across these areas.

18 (d) Coordination and collaboration with other agencies
19 that are involved in providing services to adolescents and
20 young adults who have special health care needs, including ARC
21 of Jacksonville, Hope Haven, Nemours Children's Clinic, the
22 Duval County School District, the juvenile justice system,
23 family support services, the foster care program of the
24 Department of Children and Family Services, faith-based
25 community programs, and the Duval County Health Department.

26 (e) Ongoing evaluation of patient satisfaction,
27 disease self-management, and success in taking steps toward
28 employment and health-related quality of life and other
29 health-related outcomes.

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1 (f) Services that support the intellectual development
2 and educational and vocational preparation of disabled young
3 people who are enrolled in the program.

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

6 (a) The Department of Internal Medicine-Jacksonville
7 at the University of Florida-Jacksonville, which shall:

8 1. Provide a primary care physician who will serve as
9 the co-medical director of the pilot program;

10 2. Work with both medical and surgical specialty
11 services to facilitate specialty referrals of patients;

12 3. Provide administrative support to the clinic
13 program, including, but not limited to, supervision of clinic
14 staff, scheduling, and billing;

15 4. Allot clinic space for a multidisciplinary
16 transition clinic, which should initially operate at least
17 once a week and should expand as the demand increases;

18 5. Assign nursing and support staff to the clinic,
19 including staff to implement an appointment system;

20 6. Maintain medical records and charts under the
21 University of Florida Shands Health Care System; and

22 7. Make efforts to ensure that disabled young people
23 participating in the pilot program, regardless of their
24 funding source, will continue to receive health care services
25 through the age of 23, including primary and specialty
26 outpatient medical services, medications, and laboratory
27 services.

28 (b) The Department of Pediatrics at the University of
29 Florida-Jacksonville, which shall:

30 1. Provide a primary care pediatrician who will serve
31 as the co-medical director of the pilot program;

1 2. Work with pediatric specialty physicians to
2 facilitate the transfer of disabled young people from
3 pediatric health care specialists to adult health care
4 specialists. The Department of Pediatrics shall contact
5 pediatric specialists and determine what activities or
6 supports are needed to transfer patients from pediatric
7 specialty care to adult specialty care, such as the transfer
8 of medical records and the provision of educational programs
9 for adult specialists;

10 3. Encourage participation by the subspecialty
11 pediatric physicians through the development of transition
12 programs within each specialty area to prepare patients and
13 their families for participation in the pilot program; and

14 4. Identify and refer children and families who are
15 candidates for the pilot program.

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

17 1. Encourage participation by the subspecialty
18 pediatric physicians through the development of transition
19 programs within each specialty area to prepare disabled young
20 people and their families for participation in the pilot
21 program;

22 2. Identify and refer children and families who are
23 candidates for the pilot program; and

24 3. Provide in-kind support for care coordination and
25 specialized transitional services.

26 (d) The Institute for Health Policy Evaluation and
27 Research within the Duval County Health Department, which
28 shall provide the design and implementation of a comprehensive
29 evaluation of the pilot program which includes an assessment
30 of the service-oriented process and patient and
31 family-oriented outcome measures. The Institute for Health

1 Policy Evaluation and Research within the Duval County Health
2 Department shall also conduct a longitudinal study to
3 determine whether the disabled youth who participate in this
4 pilot program are more successful than the disabled youth who
5 are not associated with the program but receive assistance
6 with vocational rehabilitation only.

7 (e) Hope Haven Clinic, Nemours Children's Clinic, ARC
8 Jacksonville, the Duval County School District, the Florida
9 Community College of Jacksonville, the state Vocational
10 Rehabilitation Agency, and other groups, which shall develop a
11 comprehensive educational and vocational transition program
12 that will be offered to adolescents and young adults in the
13 program. The transition specialists in these agencies shall
14 identify, to the greatest extent feasible, all disabled young
15 people in the district and refer them to the program.

16 Section 2. The sum of \$350,000 is appropriated from
17 the General Revenue Fund to Children's Medical Services in the
18 Department of Health for the purpose of paying startup and
19 operation costs of the Jacksonville Health and Transition
20 Services Pilot Program during the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

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

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24 SENATE SUMMARY

25 Creates the Jacksonville Health and Transition Services
26 Pilot Program to provide disabled young adults who reside
27 in the North Central area of Children's Medical Services
28 of the Department of Health with transitional services
29 relating to health care and educational and vocational
30 goals. Assigns the program for administrative purposes to
31 the Department of Health. Describes participating service
providers and the services that they are to provide.
Provides for the design and implementation of a
comprehensive evaluation of the pilot program.