## Florida Senate - 2007

By Senator Wilson

33-21-07

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to independent living;
3	requiring the Department of Children and Family
4	Services to create a pilot program in
5	Miami-Dade County to provide continued foster
6	care until participants reach the age of 21
7	years; providing eligibility requirements;
8	requiring that the circuit court select
9	participants; prescribing services that will be
10	continued; requiring periodic administration to
11	participants of an independent living
12	assessment tool; requiring the department to
13	submit a report to the court; requiring the
14	selection of a cohort group for the purpose of
15	comparing results; requiring reports to the
16	Legislature; providing for expiration of the
17	program; providing an appropriation; providing
18	an effective date.
19	
20	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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22	Section 1. Optional pilot program for continued foster
23	care to age 21
24	(1) The Department of Children and Family Services
25	shall develop an optional continued foster care pilot program
26	in Miami-Dade County. The circuit court having jurisdiction
27	over young adults who are prospective participants shall
28	select participants for the program on its own authority or
29	upon the recommendation of the young adult who wishes to
30	<u>participate, his or her case manager, or quardian ad litem.</u>
31	Each participant must be younger than 18 years of age at the

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1	time of entry into the program and must be or must have been
2	in foster care. The department may accept up to 50
3	participants into the pilot program. A participant will
4	continue to receive all foster care services, will remain
5	under continued court jurisdiction, and will remain in his or
6	her current foster or group home placement or another licensed
7	foster home arranged by the lead agency until he or she leaves
8	the pilot program or reaches 21 years of age, whichever occurs
9	first.
10	(2) The department or the lead agency must use the
11	independent living assessment tool referred to in s.
12	409.1451(4)(b)4., Florida Statutes, to assess each young adult
13	no later than 1 month after he or she reaches 17 years of age
14	to determine the young adult's specific needs and recommend
15	appropriate services. The independent living assessment tool
16	must be administered annually to determine the program's
17	effectiveness or lack thereof. The department or lead agency
18	must annually submit a report to the court as part of the
19	judicial review.
20	(3) The Department of Children and Family Services
21	shall select a cohort of up to 50 young adults who were
22	formerly in foster care, who were not eligible for the
23	Road-To-Independence Scholarship, and who live in a county
24	similar to Miami-Dade County and shall compare this cohort to
25	the participants in the pilot program by administering to them
26	the same independent living assessment tool.
27	(4) The department shall prepare an annual report and
28	submit it to the Legislature by January 31 of each year and
29	shall submit a final report by December 1, 2011. The annual
30	reports must compare the young adults in the pilot program to
31	the cohort selected under subsection (3). The final report

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1 must include an analysis, including a fiscal analysis, and a 2 recommendation of the benefits and drawbacks of duplicating the pilot program throughout the state. 3 4 (5) This section expires July 1, 2011. 5 Section 2. There is appropriated from the General 6 Revenue Fund to the Department of Children and Family 7 Services, District 11, for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the sum 8 of \$500,000 to be used in implementing the pilot program created under section 1 of this act. The department may 9 10 transfer funds appropriated in this section to the Agency for Health Care Administration to fund the Medicaid cost of this 11 12 pilot program. 13 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007. 14 \*\*\*\*\*\* 15 16 SENATE SUMMARY Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to create a pilot program in Miami-Dade County to provide 17 18 continued foster care until participants reach the age of 21 years. Provides eligibility requirements. Prescribes services that will be continued. Requires the department 19 to submit a report to the court. Requires the selection of a cohort group for the purpose of comparing results. Requires reports to the Legislature. Provides for 20 21 expiration of the program. 22 23 2.4 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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