

By the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and
Senator Wise

586-2249-07

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to transitional services for

3 young adults with disabilities; creating a

4 Health and Transition Services Program;

5 assigning the program for administrative

6 purposes to Children's Medical Services in the

7 Department of Health; providing purposes of the

8 program; delineating the target population;

9 describing participating service providers and

10 the services that they are to provide; creating

11 an operational site in a designated locality in

12 the state; providing for expansion of program

13 sites; providing for an evaluation of the

14 program; providing an effective date.

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

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18 Section 1. Health and Transition Services Program;

19 creation; purposes; participating agencies and services

20 provided; evaluation.--

21 (1) A Health and Transition Services Program is

22 created for the purpose of assisting adolescents and young

23 adults who have chronic special health care needs in making a

24 smooth transition from the child health care and educational

25 systems to the adult health care system and to employment.

26 (2) For administrative purposes, the program is

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

28 Health. The department may enter into contracts, depending

29 upon specific appropriations, with local health and transition

30 services programs that meet the requirements of this section.

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1 (3) The target population for the program consists of
2 persons who are 14 through 26 years of age and who have
3 chronic special health care needs.

4 (4) The program structure and design must be adapted
5 to the needs of the local community and health services
6 delivery system; however, the following elements should be in
7 place in order to ensure the success of a local health and
8 transition services program:

9 (a) A consultative partnership between adult and
10 pediatric health care providers in a major medical health care
11 organization or academic medical setting for the purpose of
12 training and transferring adolescents and young adults to
13 adult health care services.

14 (b) A primary care clinic established in a major
15 medical health care organization for the purpose of fostering
16 a partnership between adult and pediatric health care
17 providers.

18 (c) Community-based health care services that are
19 provided under agreements with major health care organizations
20 or academic medical centers for the purpose of providing
21 consultation concerning the management of special health care
22 needs.

23 (d) Community-based support organizations that can
24 provide assistance with services such as supported living and
25 employment, health insurance, and support services to maintain
26 the young adult in the community.

27 (5) The following services may be offered by the local
28 health and transition services program to individuals who are
29 served in the local health and transition services program:

30 (a) An assessment of health needs, educational and
31 vocational status and needs, and health insurance status.

1 (b) In coordination with the educational system,
2 community-based organizations, and the vocational system, a
3 plan for transition which includes adult health care services,
4 education, habilitative services, independent living, adult
5 employment, and health insurance.

6 (c) A medical home that provides for coordinated and
7 multidisciplinary care and focuses on engaging adult health
8 care providers in the care and treatment of the adolescent or
9 young adults.

10 (d) Disease self-management programs.

11 (6) The local health and transition services program
12 must be directed by a medical director having experience in
13 adolescent health. A project coordinator shall assist the
14 medical director in developing and implementing the program.
15 Other staff may be included in order to provide a full range
16 of health and transition services.

17 (7) There may be up to 11 sites statewide, with the
18 Jacksonville program (JaxHATS) being the first site. Each
19 additional site must be organized in a substantially similar
20 manner as the JaxHATS program and have flexibility with regard
21 to staffing and costs in rural areas of the state.

22 (8) The local health and transition services program
23 must be evaluated by an organization or university that has
24 expertise and experience in evaluating health care programs.
25 The evaluation must be formative and cumulative and must
26 include program process and outcome measures as well as client
27 outcomes. The results of the evaluation may be used to improve
28 and develop other local health and transition services
29 programs.

30 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.

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1 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
2 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
3 Senate Bill 394

4 The committee substitute:

- 5 - Clarifies that the target population of the Health and
6 Transition Services Program is young adults age 14 to 26
7 who have chronic special health needs.
- 8 - Provides that the program is established in the
9 Department of Health, which is authorized to enter into
10 contracts with up to 11 local health and transition
11 services programs throughout the state.
- 12 - Identifies certain elements that should be in place in
13 order for a local program to be successful and lists the
14 services that should be offered to individuals served by
15 the local programs.
- 16 - Clarifies that the elements and the services are
17 permissive rather than mandatory and dependent on the
18 resources of the local communities in which the programs
19 are located.
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