

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

586-2160-07

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to caregivers for adults;
3 authorizing the Department of Elderly Affairs
4 to create a pilot program in certain counties
5 to train economically disadvantaged workers who
6 are a specified age or older to act as
7 companions and provide certain services to
8 frail and vulnerable adults in the community;
9 specifying additional purposes of the pilot
10 program; requiring an evaluation and report to
11 the Legislature; providing an appropriation;
12 providing an effective date.

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

16 Section 1. ~~(1) Beginning in the 2007-2008 fiscal year~~
17 ~~and for a period of no longer than 3 years, the Department of~~
18 ~~Elderly Affairs may establish a pilot program in Pasco County,~~
19 ~~Pinellas County, or both to train economically disadvantaged~~
20 ~~workers who are 55 years of age or older to act as companions~~
21 ~~and provide personal assistance to frail and vulnerable adults~~
22 ~~in the community. The purposes of the pilot program are to:~~

23 ~~(a) Foster the development of training and employment~~
24 ~~opportunities for economically disadvantaged workers who are~~
25 ~~55 years of age or older;~~

26 ~~(b) Encourage the use of economically disadvantaged~~
27 ~~workers who are 55 years of age or older in providing~~
28 ~~community-based care for frail and vulnerable adults who live~~
29 ~~in the community;~~

1 (c) Assist in meeting the growing demand for in-home
2 companion care services and personal care services and
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, 2010, 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. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from
19 the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Elderly Affairs
20 for the purpose of supporting the pilot program created by
21 this act.

22 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.
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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
Senate Bill 434

The Committee Substitute makes the following provisions:

- Adds Pasco County and/or Pinellas County as the service area for the pilot Program.
- Deletes the provision allowing the Department of Elder Affairs to use federal funds to support the pilot program.
- Provides an Appropriation in the amount of \$100,000 from the General Revenue Fund to DOEA to support the pilot program.